



A FLORIDA HERITAGE PUBLICATION

Florida Jewish Heritage Trail

מה נשתנה הספר הזה מכל הספרים



INTRODUCTION

The rich legacy of the Jewish community in Florida can be found in every region of the state. As a people, Jews have contributed dramatically to Florida's economy, culture and government and created institutions that allowed their heritage to flourish and their identity to strengthen.

Although there is a perception that Jews did not arrive in Florida until after World War

II, Jewish history in Florida actually can be traced to 1763 with the arrival of Alexander Solomons, Joseph de Palacios and Samuel Israel in Pensacola. In the 1800s, many Jewish families immigrated to Florida from northern states and foreign countries to settle both inland and along the coast. Today, South Florida is home to the second largest concentration of Jews in the

world. Florida has the nation's third largest Jewish community, estimated in 1999 at 800,000.

The *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail* retraces the steps of Florida's Jewish pioneers from colonial times through the present. You are invited to visit the historical sites that reflect the Jewish experience in Florida.

Good luck on the Trail. *Shalom aleichem!* Peace be with you!

MOSAIC

The *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail* has had its own journey. It is an outgrowth of MOSAIC, the pioneer history-gathering project of the Florida Jewish experience. MOSAIC began in 1984 as a local history project at the Samuel M. and Helene Soref Jewish Community Center in Plantation (Broward County). Soon the focus of MOSAIC was broadened to cover the entire state. Marcia Zerivitz spent six years

crisscrossing Florida, traveling more than 100,000 miles, researching, collecting photos, documents and artifacts, and training volunteers in oral histories and the collection of historic materials. Hundreds of people contributed photographs and artifacts from their families. From this, the *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida* exhibit was mounted and traveled to 11 Florida cities, then nationally, from

1990 to 1994. MOSAIC became the basis and inspiration for the Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA in Miami Beach. This guidebook, the *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail*, has been enriched by the photos, documents, artifacts, oral histories, and other archives that are now housed in the Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA.

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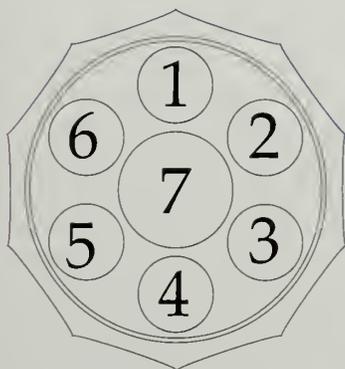
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On the Cover: The Hebrew inscription reads, "Why is this book different from all other books." The photos on the seder plate are 1. The Simon Ridgeway House in Monticello 2. Beach Street in Daytona Beach 3. Ohev Shalom Cemetery in Orlando 4. The Audobon House in Key West 5. The interior of Temple Israel of Greater Miami 6. The Henry Brash House in Apalachicola 7. The Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA

Many of the sites listed in this publication are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as contributing resources in a historic district. The National Register is an official list of historically significant properties located throughout the country. The list is maintained by the National Park Service, and includes places that have been documented as being significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture, at the local, state, or national level. For more information on the National Register, consult the National Park Service's National Register website at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/. You may also call the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation at (850) 487-2333 or 1-800-847-7278 or visit their website at www.flheritage.com.

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN FLORIDA

CULTURAL CLASHES

The Jewish experience in Florida has been rich in achievements and successes. Jews have prospered and left legacies that will forever help to define the character of Florida.

However, these outstanding achievements and contributions to Florida have a dark side – one of prejudice and discrimination. In early Spanish Florida, Jews and other non-Catholics were prohibited from legally settling in Florida and practicing their religion. Following England's acquisition of Florida in 1763, Jews were free to settle legally in Florida.

However, persecution and prejudice still made their lives difficult and limited their choices in employment and settlement opportunities. When Florida became an American territory in 1821, more Jews were free to move to Florida. Here, America's tolerance of religious diversity made the state attractive to those persecuted in other lands. Immigrants from Europe, Spain and the Caribbean converged in Florida to assist in the creation of a multiethnic society.

Although the new American Florida offered more opportunities, persecution, hatred and discrimination followed the Jews from their native lands to Florida. As the numbers of Jews increased in Florida, so did the number of discriminatory acts against them. During times of economic or social crisis, Jews often were victims of hate crimes and other atrocities. For instance, in the violent aftermath of the Civil War, Samuel Fleishman, a Jewish merchant and 20-year resident of Marianna, was murdered for advancing credit to freed blacks. In 1891, the Key West

City Council imposed a \$1,000 tax on peddlers, a large majority of whom were Jewish, forcing many to move farther north. Across the state, Jews faced and overcame these obstacles. The Jewish settlers of the late 1800s and early 1900s persevered and carved niches for themselves in this new and lush land of opportunity.

With World War I, anti-Semitism again increased sharply in the state. On Miami Beach, restrictive land covenants prevented Jews from residing north of Fifth Street. Ocean-side hotels advertised their resorts for gentile clientele only. Large areas of Florida were closed to Jewish settlement. Orlando's Jewish community was excluded from a war bond rally in 1917. In Miami, the Ku Klux Klan parodied a popular tourism slogan: "It's Always June in Miami" to "It's Always Jewish in Miami."

Until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Jews were an "outsider" minority without an organized ability to fight the widespread discrimination they faced in real estate, employment, higher education, and politics. Jews were forced to found their own law firms, banks and other professional institutions because they could not become partners in gentile firms. They established their own hospital because Jewish doctors were denied hospital privileges elsewhere. Jews were barred from country clubs, fraternities and other social clubs. Given the discrimination that was accepted among large segments of the non-Jewish population, the economic, political and cultural contributions made by Jews to the State of Florida are even greater



achievements because of the barriers they faced and overcame. Chapters of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the American Jewish Congress were created in Florida to battle anti-Semitism and protect Jewish rights. These groups have helped ease discrimination, but by no means has discrimination been entirely stamped out.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

As Jews settled in Florida, they formed organizations that met the educational, social, health, and recreational needs of their communities from cradle to grave. Some of the early organizations were created to help immigrants become settled. For example, the first chapter of B'nai B'rith, a national organization that works to educate its members and support Jewish causes, was founded in 1874 in Pensacola.

Few organized Jewish groups existed until the Jewish population increased sufficiently to sustain them in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As the Jewish population increased, Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers (JCC's) and youth organizations were formed around the state. At the college level, Jewish fraternities and sororities were established at college campuses. Organizations also were created to help with specific causes, like the Zionist movement. Jewish newspapers and magazines were founded and, in recent years, major facilities have been built to care for the Jewish elderly. All Jewish organizations help Jews keep in touch with each other, ensuring that their heritage is passed from one generation to the next.



CEMETERIES

The *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail* describes many Jewish cemeteries, all of which are significant to the Jewish community. Judaism requires that a Jew must be buried in a Jewish cemetery and not a cemetery of another faith. Burial in a non-sectarian cemetery is allowed only if the Jewish graves are not intermingled with the graves of other religions. For this reason, separate, consecrated Jewish sections often were established within larger non-sectarian cemeteries.

The first organization formed by a Jewish community is often a *chevra kadisha*, literally a holy society, whose purpose is to prepare bodies for Jewish burial. Until Jewish cemeteries were established in Florida, such organizations shipped remains out of state for ritual burial. It was inevitable that as the Jewish population grew, the local community would create a nearby Jewish cemetery.

Consecrating a Jewish cemetery involves certain procedures. A prayer group meets at the site with the stated purpose of consecrating the ground. The group recites psalms, usually beginning with the 23rd Psalm and continuing with the 119th Psalm, and concludes with a recitation of the mourner's *kaddish*, a traditional prayer said on the day of burial. To distinguish the occasion and the site, old Jewish prayer books and ritual objects also may be buried. Finally, the group walks around the perimeter of the property.

In 1857, when six Jews perished in a yellow fever epidemic, the Jacksonville Hebrew Cemetery was established as a separate section of Jacksonville's Old City Cemetery. This was the first Jewish cemetery in Florida and the first recorded Jewish community institution in the state. The Jacksonville Jewish cemetery was the first of a series that later included Key West, 1865; Pensacola, 1869; Ocala, 1873; Tampa, 1894; St. Augustine, 1911; and Miami, 1913.

After Jewish cemeteries were established, it was not unusual for remains to be relocated from distant burial grounds. This process is generally discouraged unless it is to move Jewish remains from a non-Jewish cemetery to a Jewish cemetery, or to reunite the remains with others in the decedent's family.

Today, many Jewish cemeteries can be found throughout Florida, some located within larger cemeteries and others as stand-alone cemeteries, dedicated solely to Jewish burials. All Jewish cemeteries preserve memory for survivors and remain an important resource for genealogists and for historians of the local community.

HISTORIC CONGREGATIONS

Florida Jewish pioneers Philip Dzialynski, Robert Williams, and Morris Endel each brought a Torah with them when they settled in Jacksonville in 1850, Tallahassee in 1865, and Gainesville in 1865, respectively. This ensured that Jewish worship would take place on the Florida frontier. The Torah is a scroll on which is written the Five Books of Moses, which constitute the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. It is the most sacred object in Jewish worship.

By 1900, six Jewish congregations were chartered in Florida. The first was Temple Beth El, in Pensacola, founded in 1876. Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, 1882; Rodeph Sholom, Key West, 1887; United Hebrews of Ocala, 1888; Schaarai Zedek, Tampa, 1894; and B'nai Israel, Pensacola, 1899, followed. All the congregations still remain in existence, although the historic congregation in Ocala is now

split into two, and Key West's congregation is now known as B'nai Zion.

A particular branch of Judaism identifies Jewish congregations. Orthodox is the most traditional branch; Reform is the most modern while the Conservative branch follows a middle path. Most congregations in Florida—and all the congregations that predate 1900—are based upon Ashkenazic Judaism, the traditions that arose in Central and Eastern Europe. Several Florida congregations follow the Sephardic rituals, rooted in pre-Inquisition Spain and Portugal. In 1900, only six Jewish congregations existed in Florida. One hundred years later, more than 300 Jewish congregations have been established in the state, and the number is increasing.

RETAILING

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Jewish merchants crisscrossed the state as itinerant peddlers. They sold their wares in small cities and villages, sometimes settling down in a new area to open small stores. There they sold groceries, clothing, footwear, cigars, dry goods, and furniture. Oftentimes these merchants were also skilled craftsmen. Some Jewish merchants were mobile, moving from town to town in response to weather, disease, and economic disasters. Others remained in one place where their department stores grew over several generations. In 1857, on the heels of an economic panic, Samuel Cline and Max White closed



Old City Cemetery, Pensacola



their St. Augustine clothing store and moved to Tampa. Still others, such as the Maas brothers in Tampa, the Cohen brothers in Jacksonville, and the Frank family in Clearwater, remained in one place where their department stores grew over several generations.

Some of these new merchants were immigrants who paved the way for their *landsmen* to join them, offering jobs and monetary help to the newer arrivals. Merchants settled in areas in North Florida, such as Live Oak, that served as stop-off points for Jewish newcomers heading into Florida from Georgia.

This small sampling overlooks the countless others who pioneered as Jews and as retailers in the frontier communities throughout Florida. Through their courage, perseverance, and civic contributions, they established the roots and credibility that enabled others to follow.

AGRICULTURE

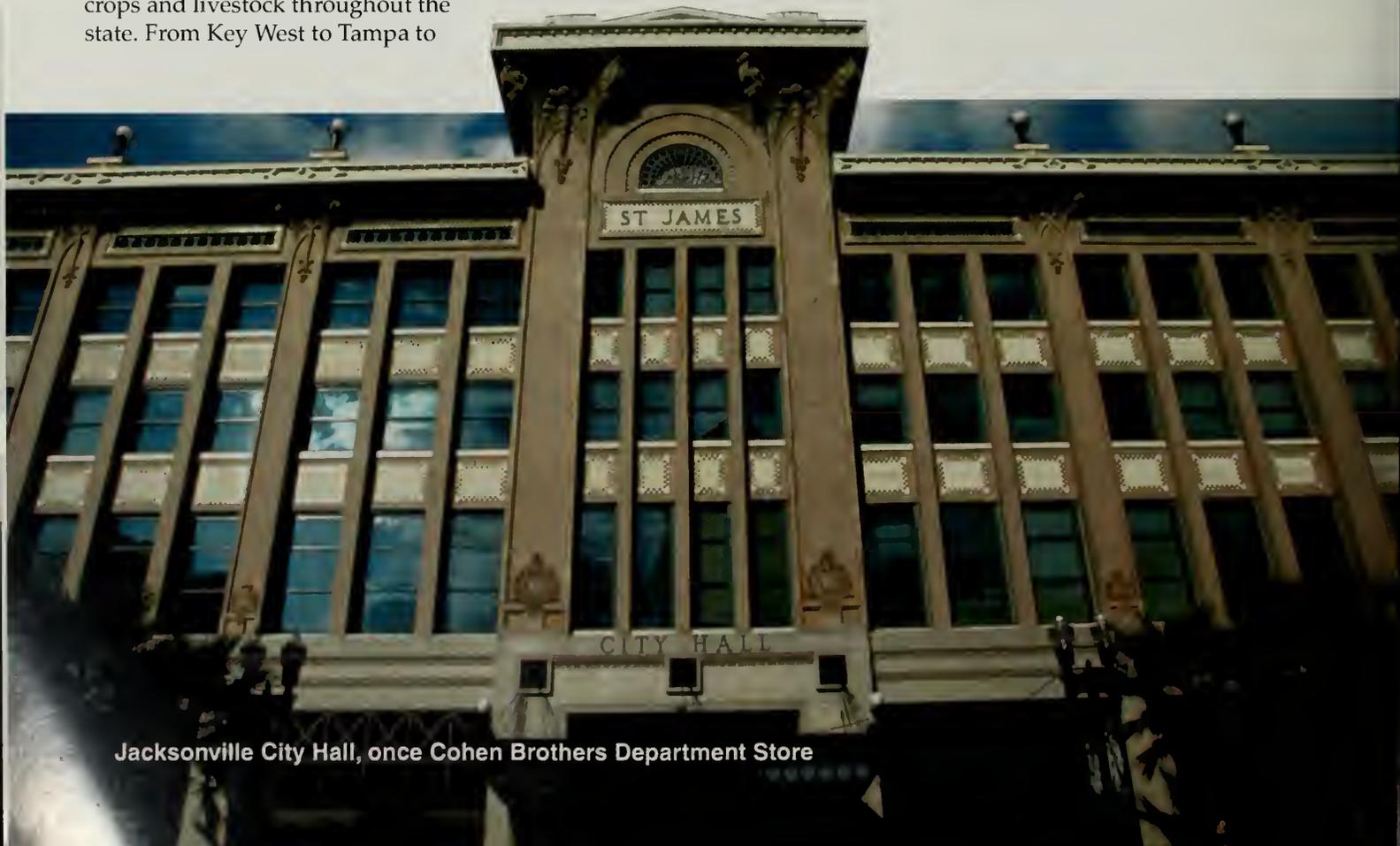
Jewish Floridians have produced and distributed numerous types of farm crops and livestock throughout the state. From Key West to Tampa to

Quincy to Tallahassee, Florida Jews engaged in growing tobacco and manufacturing cigars during the 19th and 20th centuries. Charles and Hannah Peyser in Ocala manufactured and marketed El Tropic cigar from 1860 through 1920, while Max Wedeles owned one of the largest shade tobacco farms and packing houses in North Florida. Others made their names in various other ventures such as the Benedict pineapple packing business in Orlando, Harry Rubinstein's tomato farm in Dania, Theodore and Ann Berman's dairy farm in Okeechobee and the Bush family egg farm in the St. Petersburg and Clearwater areas.

Jews also enjoyed considerable success in the citrus and cattle industries. In 1923, David Bilgore moved to Clearwater to establish groves and open a packing house and cannery. Bilgore's son-in-law, Jules Bragin, joined the business in the 1930s and later formed a partnership with David's sons, Morris and Aaron. Russian Jewish immigrant Saul Snyder settled in St. Augustine

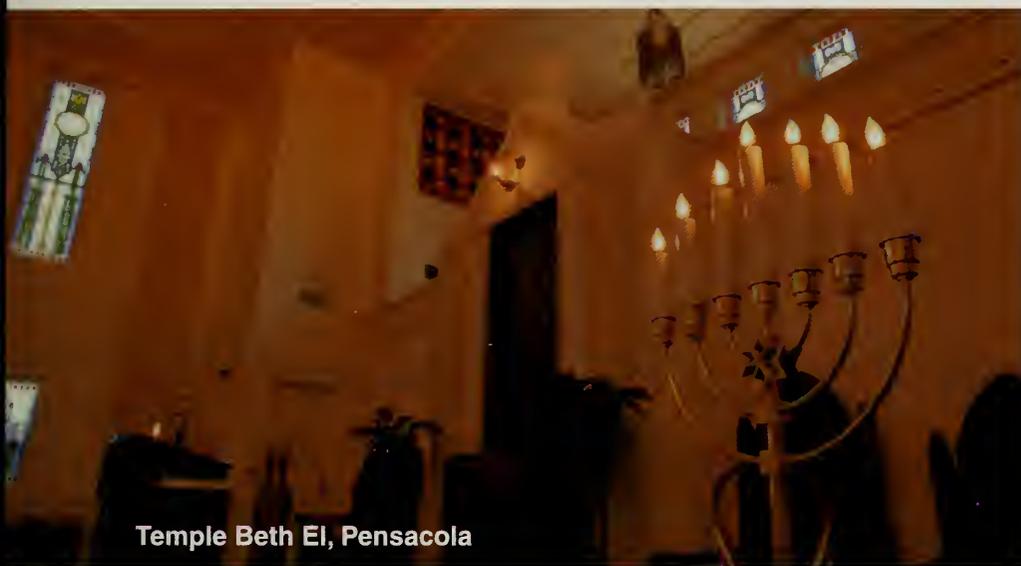
and purchased his first cow in 1912. By the 1950s he owned 5,000 head ranging in St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, and Volusia counties. In 1934 Snyder was a founder of the Florida Cattleman's Association. In 1940, George Terry purchased 600 acres of citrus groves near Orlando. Within ten years his holdings had expanded to 70,000 acres and included both citrus groves and cattle. Terry also was instrumental in testing clover used to fatten livestock. In 1939, brothers James, Seymour, and Milton Heller began Heller Brothers Packing Corporation in Winter Garden. Now into its third generation, the company's 5,000 acres of citrus groves extend as far south as Immokalee in Collier County. The Haftel family groves in Tarpon Springs, founded in 1953, are extensive and are still in operation.

Today, the agricultural legacy of these and many other Jews have helped to make Florida a leader in the citrus, vegetable and cattle industries. Their foresight into the potential of this vast frontier has forever affected the economy of Florida.



Jacksonville City Hall, once Cohen Brothers Department Store

NORTHWEST FLORIDA



Temple Beth El, Pensacola

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

PENSACOLA

Lewis Bear Block
402-410 South Palafox Street 32501-5931

The Lewis Bear Company, founded in 1876, was a wholesale supplier of groceries, hardware, and liquor throughout the Florida Panhandle. The German-born Lewis Bear employed Jewish newcomers and helped launch the careers of many successful merchants. Bear was a Confederate Army veteran who moved from Alabama to Pensacola about 1870. This Classical Revival style building, with its colorful balconies, dates from 1892.

Temple Beth El (Reform)
800 North Palafox Street 32501
(850) 438-3321

Temple Beth El, founded in 1876, was the first Jewish congregation chartered in Florida. The current synagogue dates from 1931. Inside is located the North Florida Jewish

Historical Experience Museum, a portion of the MOSAIC traveling exhibit, which traces Jewish settlement in Pensacola from the arrival of Joseph de Palacios, Samuel Israel, and Alexander Solomons in 1763. Visitors can also see the 1896 cornerstone from Beth El's former synagogue that was destroyed by fire in 1929.

Beth El Cemetery
Cervantes Street between Q and R Streets (850) 438-3321

In 1869, when Simerall Goldbach donated land to Temple Beth El for a Jewish cemetery, Beth El's founding president Gerson Forcheimer received the deed. The earliest grave is for one of Goldbach's children, Abraham, who died of yellow fever in the 1870s. In all, Goldbach buried five children in this cemetery. A special marker is dedicated to Goldbach for his contribution of "this beautiful spot" to the Jewish community of Pensacola.

B'nai Israel Synagogue (Conservative)

1909 North 9th Avenue at Mallory
32503 (850) 433-7311

B'nai Israel was the sixth Jewish congregation to be founded in Florida. Chartered in 1899, B'nai Israel met in the vestry room of Temple Beth El, then moved to the Odd Fellows Hall, which was a secret meeting place for the Ku Klux Klan. In 1923, the congregation moved to a synagogue that has since been demolished at 400 North Barcelona Street. They moved to their current site on North 9th Avenue in 1954.

Miss Gerty Goldschmidt's Boarding House

230 North Barcelona Street 32501-4804

Gerty Goldschmidt ran both a boarding house and a restaurant. Located only a block from B'nai Israel's former synagogue, it was where the Jewish crowd ate in the 1930s. Gerty catered to a citywide clientele and was renowned for her Jewish-style southern cooking.

North Hill Preservation District

The North Hill Preservation District is a National Register of Historic Places District of elegant late 19th-century and early 20th-century houses. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, many prominent Jews of Pensacola moved to this neighborhood from the area around Seville Square. Alex Lischkoff, a founder of B'nai Israel Synagogue, lived on the southwest corner of Spring and Strong and attached a permanent *sukkah* (booth commemorating the temporary shelters of the Jews in the wilderness) to his house that is still

visible at the corner. Other prominent Jewish residences of North Hill include:

200 West Gonzalez Street; Mozart Lischkoff

811 North Spring Street; Leopold Mayer

820 South Barcelona Street; Harry Kahn

Progress Club

24 West Chase Street 32501-5614

The Progress Club, founded in 1876 as a Jewish social organization, had this building constructed in 1911. Its original marble staircase and woodwork remain. The building was also the temporary location of Temple Beth El between 1929, when the synagogue burned, and 1931, when the congregation moved to a new synagogue. Worship services were held in the ballroom.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

APALACHICOLA

Henry Brash House (The Porches)
67 Avenue D 32320-1793

Henry Brash built this yellow pine house in 1865. The porches were added in 1890. Brash, a Confederate soldier, sponge fisherman and local merchant, and his wife Henrietta raised 11 children in this house. They *kashered* (ritually cleansed) their dishes in the Gulf of Mexico and held Passover *seder* dinners on the beach.

GULF COUNTY

PORT ST. JOE

Constitution Convention State Museum

200 Allen Memorial Way 32456
(850) 229-8029

The large outdoor monument lists the delegates to the 1838-1841 constitutional convention, including David Levy (Yulee). In the museum, animated mannequins relate the story behind Florida's first constitution and the convention that met in

the city of St. Joseph, once located near here before being destroyed by a hurricane. Among St. Joseph's prominent residents was Raphael Jacob Moses. A Charleston-born fifth-generation American Jew, Moses moved to St. Joseph in 1838 to become secretary of the Lake Wimico & St. Joseph Canal & Railroad Company. The museum has a replica of an engine from the railroad. Moses was a Florida delegate to the 1847 national Democratic convention and practiced law in Apalachicola until 1849 when he moved to Georgia.



Henry Brash House (The Porches), Apalachicola

GADSDEN COUNTY

QUINCY

In its heyday, Quincy was home to a number of prominent Jewish tobacco growers. Large leaf shade tobacco was a profitable crop in Gadsden County in the 19th and 20th centuries. At that time, shade tobacco leaves were used as the outer wrappers for cigars. By the late 1970s, however, cigar makers began substituting a paper-based product for the shade tobacco leaves. That, along with the overall decline in cigar smoking, eventually curtailed Quincy's tobacco production.

Former Packing House
385 East Jefferson Street (U.S. Highway 90) 32351-2531

This 1890 building is one of Quincy's few original tobacco packing houses. It was used by many Jewish-owned tobacco businesses. The 1890 Victorian cottage next door at 379 East

Jefferson Street is the original office of the Santa Clara Plantation.

Hillcrest Cemetery, Jewish section
13th Street, 2 blocks off U.S. Highway 12 (850) 627-7681

At one time, Jews who died in Quincy were buried in Bainbridge, Georgia. After the Jewish cemetery opened in 1930, some of the early graves were moved to Quincy. The cemetery is maintained by the city. From Quincy, take U.S. Highway 12 west to 13th Street, turn right and continue for two blocks.

Max Wedeles House

318 East King Street 32351-2400

Max Wedeles, who claimed to have been the largest independent producer of shade tobacco in the area, arrived in Quincy in 1896. He acquired this 1894 house for his residence in 1904 while serving on the city council. Other prominent Jewish tobacco farmers in Quincy were Ignatz Gardner and Max Wedeles's son Joe; Morris Scadron and his son Ivis; and Henry Weinberg and his brother-in-law Berthold Ottinger.

Weinberg Tobacco Company
113 South Duval Street 32351

In 1922, brothers-in-law Henry Weinberg, Sr. and B. (Berthold) Ottinger formed the Weinberg Tobacco Company and constructed this building. In 1939, B. Ottinger split from Weinberg and became the manager of the Swisher and Sons factory, owned by Jonathan H. Swisher. The Weinberg Tobacco Company operated until 1970. A

four-story cigar factory, known as the Swisher Building, was constructed in 1939 and is located at the southwest corner of Porro and Crawford Streets.

LEON COUNTY

TALLAHASSEE

**Florida Photographic Collection,
Florida State Archives
R. A. Gray Building, 1st Floor, 500
South Bronough Street 32399-0250
(850) 487-2073**

The photographic archive contains the MOSAIC Collection, donated by the Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA on Miami Beach. This collection consists of 650 images of Jewish life in Florida from the 1880s to the 1960s. It can be accessed through the Florida Department of State website at: www.dos.state.fl.us/fpc/.

**Jewish Cemetery
(Oakland Cemetery)
Between 4th Avenue and Brevard
Street on Bronough Street
(850) 545-5842**

Leon County's second Jewish cemetery opened in 1942 in a designated section in Oakland Cemetery. The first burial took place on March 19, 1943 for Harry Mendelson. Earlier Jewish burials were conducted either at the Old City Cemetery or in distant cities. After the purchase of the 254 gravesites, the grave of Mervin H. Wahnish, who died in 1914, was transferred from the Old City Cemetery to the Wahnish family plot. Relocated from Jacksonville were the graves of infant Gelberg and Howard Gelberg who had died in 1918. By the 1970s, Tallahassee's Jewish community had outgrown this cemetery, necessitating land purchases for Jewish burial sections in several other cemeteries.

THE WILLIAMS AND DIAMOND FAMILIES

Robert Williams and his bride, Helena Dzialynski, came to Florida during the early 1850s. Robert settled in Jasper in 1854 and Helena moved with her family to Jacksonville around 1850. In 1865, immediately after the Civil War, the Williams family moved from Jasper to Tallahassee. There, Robert bought a store, became a cotton planter, and was active in civic affairs. Williams is also remembered for installing the first street lights in the capital city. He often led prayers on Jewish holidays in Tallahassee and provided the Torah for worship services. Today, Robert Williams' Torah is in the Ark at Temple Israel.

Helena Williams bore five daughters, each of whom found a Jewish husband. Rachel, the eldest, married Jacob Raphael Cohen, an Orlando councilman who had signed that city's charter. They were married in 1877 by a rabbi who traveled to Tallahassee from Charleston, South Carolina, to perform the ceremony. Cohen became a councilman in Tallahassee. Ida, the second daughter, married Cohen's brother, Maurice. Zipporah, the third daughter, married Charles Apte. Wilhamena (Mena), the fourth daughter, became the first Miss Florida in 1885. When Governor Edward A. Perry was inaugurated in that year, Mena led a procession of young women and carried a flag made of Tallahassee spun silk. Mena married Julius Hirschberg, who was one of the principals in the El Provedo cigar manufacturing company.



Miss Ruby Diamond

Henrietta, the fifth daughter, married Tallahassee merchant and cotton planter Julius Diamond in 1879. Diamond (1853-1914) emigrated from Prussia to the United States in 1866 and to Tallahassee in 1870. Diamond served as chairman of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners from 1889 to 1899. He was known to have distributed seed and fertilizer to the poor. Henrietta and Julius Diamond had two children – Sydney, born in 1883, and Ruby, born in 1886. Sydney became a lawyer, and Miss Ruby, as she came to be known, was a symbolic link for the Jews of Tallahassee with their community's beginnings. Miss Ruby lived in Tallahassee throughout her life. In 1905, she earned a B.A. degree in chemistry from the Florida Female College (now Florida State University). Later she made significant contributions to her alma mater. She died in 1982.



GOVERNOR DAVID SHOLTZ

Governor David Sholtz (1891-1953) served as Florida's only Jewish governor. The son of Jewish immigrants who settled in Daytona Beach in 1915, Sholtz was inaugurated as Florida's 26th governor on January 3, 1933. Governor Sholtz's radio broadcast at this inauguration was a state first. A graduate of Stetson Law School, Sholtz served in the state legislature before his gubernatorial election. Often called the New Deal Governor of Florida, Sholtz's term coincided with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first. Sholtz, who considered education a high priority, issued free textbooks to schools and increased school appropriations. His term ended in 1937.

**Robert Manning Strozier Library,
Rare Book Room, Special Collec-
tions, Facing Landis Green, Florida
State University 32306-2047
(850) 644-3271**

The Ruby Diamond Collection of manuscripts, photos, and printed materials consists of 3,755 pieces, dating back to 1886. Miss Ruby, as she was known, was the granddaughter of Tallahassee pioneers Robert and Helena Williams. Many of the papers in the collection relate to her father, Julius Diamond, businessman and chairman of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners throughout the 1890s, and her brother, Sydney, a lawyer. The collection also includes major political addresses of the time and a copy of the birth certificate of David Sholtz, Florida's only Jewish governor.

**Temple Israel (Reform)
2215 Mahan Drive 32308-6187
(850) 877-3517**

Tallahassee's oldest Jewish congregation was founded in 1937. The holy ark contains the Torah scroll that belonged to Robert Williams, who settled in Tallahassee in 1865. The congregation displays the silver

Sabbath candlesticks and other Jewish artifacts that belonged to his granddaughter, Miss Ruby Diamond. Also at the synagogue are oral histories and archives of the local Jewish community. The cornerstone of this synagogue bears the Masonic emblem that attests to a long friendship between the two groups.

**Alfred Wahnish Tobacco
Warehouse & Cigar Factory
469 St. Francis Street 32301-2228**

Alfred Wahnish was a Moroccan Jew who first moved to Pensacola, then settled in Tallahassee in the 1880s. He was a prominent shade tobacco grower and owned a 3,600-acre plantation. In 1907 he built this two-story brick building on the southeast corner of St. Francis and South Macomb Streets as the first structure of his three-building Wahnish Tobacco Warehouse & Cigar Factory. To the south are the other two buildings, constructed in 1908 and 1925-30. Alfred's son, Sam A. Wahnish, was mayor of Tallahassee from 1939 to 1941.



Simon House, Monticello



Visit Cedar Key's two museums to learn about the history of Cedar Key, view photographs of the railroad, and research information about Yulee. A state marker in the city park at the east end of 2nd Street near the Historical Society Museum tells the story of Yulee and his railroad.

The Island Hotel
224 2nd Street 32625-5114
(352) 543-5111 or (800) 432-4640
 In 1915, Simon Feinberg bought the Parsons and Hale General Store, which dated back to 1859. Feinberg renovated the building and renamed it the Bay Hotel. In 1919, Feinberg made a routine visit to his hotel and discovered a still in the attic. Dismayed at the disregard for Prohibition, he confronted the manager, who agreed to remove the still, but insisted Feinberg stay for lunch. After lunch, Feinberg became drowsy and entered a guestroom where he fell into a deep sleep. He never awoke. Although suspicions were aroused, the mystery of Feinberg's death was never solved. Hotel lore claims friendly sightings of Feinberg's ghost.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

MONTICELLO

Simon House
625 East Washington Street (US 90)
32344-2546 (850) 997-1376
 Today a bed and breakfast and private residence, this Classical Revival style house was built in 1888 by Abraham and Rachel Simon. Abe Simon owned a general store and turpentine business in town. He also manufactured and distributed patent medicines under the name of Calmetto Company. The large fluted columns were added around 1905. They were brought to Monticello from Georgia on a railroad flatbed and then transported by oxen to the home. Inside, the sun porch is constructed of magnolia wood paneling from Jefferson County.

Several of the stores are standing, including the Gibbs Store, the Fleet Store, and the Gilmore Store. These and other Jewish families in town—the Mendelsons, Rubensteins, and Weisses—hired a *shochet*, a ritual slaughterer, to come to Live Oak to provide them with kosher meat and to teach their children Hebrew.

SUWANNEE COUNTY

LIVE OAK

Howard Street Merchants
Howard Street, 1st and 2nd Streets,
west of Highway 129
 Live Oak was a stopping-off point for Jews moving into Florida from Georgia. Some remained and opened retail stores on Howard Street.

LEVY COUNTY

CEDAR KEY

Cedar Key Historical Society Museum
Highway 24 at 2nd Street 32625
(352) 543-5549

Cedar Key State Museum
12231 Southwest 166th Court
32625-6200 (352) 543-5350

Levy County was named for David Levy Yulee, Florida's first senator and builder of the first cross-state railroad. Yulee's railroad began in Fernandina Beach and reached its terminus in Cedar Key in 1861. It provided a means for carrying the region's lumber and its manufactured by-products of turpentine, brooms, and pencils across Florida.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA



DAVID LEVY YULEE

David Levy Yulee was Florida's first United States Senator and the builder of Florida's first cross-state railroad. He was born David Levy in 1810 on St. Thomas, British West Indies to Moses Elias and Hannah Abendanone Levy. He was admitted to the bar in 1836 and later helped lead Florida into statehood, first as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1838 and then as territorial delegate to Congress from 1841 to 1845. David Levy was elected to the United States Senate in 1845, becoming the nation's first Jewish senator. The next year he added the name of his father's Sephardic ancestry, Yulee. Yulee operated sugar plantations on the Homosassa River and in Alachua County. A resident of Fernandina, his railroad in the 1850s linked the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Yulee resigned from the Senate and served in the Confederate Congress. Yulee was briefly imprisoned by the Union, and following his release he rebuilt his railroad, which had been destroyed during the war. Yulee moved to Washington, D.C., in 1880. He died six years later and is buried there. Levy County and the town of Yulee (Nassau County) are among the Florida places named for him.

NASSAU COUNTY

FERNANDINA BEACH

Amelia Island Museum of History
233 South Third Street 32034
(904) 261-7378

The museum features reference materials relating to Yulee's business and personal life.

Nassau County Courthouse
Centre Street at 5th Street 32034
(904) 321-5782

This Georgian Revival style courthouse with Italianate features was constructed in 1892. Herbert William Fishler worked at the courthouse and served as Fernandina Beach's city attorney for about two decades. He had the longest recorded legal practice of any attorney in Fernandina Beach and is thought to have been the only Jewish lawyer practicing in the county. He was also largely responsible for the first bridge (1942) to span the Intercoastal Waterway at Nassau Sound, thereby linking Nassau and Duval counties. In recognition of his efforts, the bridge was renamed for him following his death in 1984. The original bridge, recently replaced, has been relocated to the Amelia Island Recreational State Park where it is a "no-traffic" fishing bridge.

YULEE

The unincorporated town of Yulee is named for Florida's first senator, David Levy Yulee and was on the route of his Florida railroad. Some of the abandoned railbed from that period is still visible between the towns of Yulee and Callahan while the original railbed from Callahan south to Archer is still in use.

DUVAL COUNTY

JACKSONVILLE

Old City Cemetery
Washington and Union Streets
32206

Resident Moses Serfarty died in 1857 and was buried in Charleston, South Carolina because Jacksonville had no Jewish cemetery. Subsequently, Jacksonville Jews organized the Hebrew Benevolent Society and acquired what became the first cemetery designated for Jewish burial in Florida. Among the earliest burials were six victims of yellow fever in 1857 that included the Dzialynski family patriarch, Abraham, and two of his sons. Seven Confederate veterans are buried here.

Nassau County Courthouse





Florida Theatre, Jacksonville

THE DZIALYNSKI FAMILY

The Dzialynski family is one of the oldest Jewish families in Florida. They emigrated to Jacksonville from Poland via New York City in the 1850s. The family included brothers Phillip and Morris and their parents. Phillip married Ida Ehrlick in 1856 and their son George, born in 1857, is believed to be the first Jewish male born in Florida. Phillip's family moved to Madison in 1860 where he operated a general store. Upon the death of Ida in 1864, Phillip moved to Savannah, Georgia, where he married Mary Cohen, sister of Jacob Raphael Cohen of Orlando and Tallahassee. The family returned to Florida where they operated stores in Palatka, Bartow, Orlando and Fort Meade. They returned to Bartow in 1889 and operated the Orange Grove Hotel before returning to Jacksonville in 1895. Phillip died the following year. Their daughter, Gertrude, became the first woman faculty member of East Florida Seminary, one of Florida's first women lawyers and helped found the League of Women Voters of Florida. Unable to find work as a lawyer, Gertrude served as secretary to Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward.

Phillip's brother Morris settled in Jacksonville, married Rosa Slager and fathered one daughter, Rosalie. He served as both mayor (1881-83), was founding president of the state's second congregation in 1882, and served as municipal judge before his death in 1907.

Cohen Brothers Store, St. James Building (Jacksonville City Hall)
117 West Duval Street 32202-3705
(904) 630-1377

Occupying the entire block, the St. James Building has been a Jacksonville landmark since its completion in 1912. The Cohen brothers, who commissioned the construction of the building, hired renowned Jacksonville architect Henry John Klutho to design and supervise the construction of this mammoth building. The building takes its name from the famous St. James Hotel that occupied the site until it was destroyed by the 1901 fire that destroyed much of downtown Jacksonville. The store occupied the first two floors with offices on the top two floors, including the new offices of Klutho himself. At one time it was the largest department store in the South and the ninth largest in the United States. The building has been rehabilitated and now serves as the Jacksonville City Hall. The four Cohen brothers, Samuel, Morris, Julius, and Jacob, came to Jacksonville in 1867 and founded the Cohen Brothers Company in 1870. The company was in business until the 1980s.

Florida Theatre (a performing arts center) 128 East Forsyth Street
32202 (904) 355-5661

Seven stories tall, the Mediterranean Revival style Florida Theatre was considered the finest theater in Jacksonville when it opened in 1927. Roy A. Benjamin, co-architect, figured prominently in the rebuilding of Jacksonville after the fire of 1901. Benjamin designed both commercial and residential buildings in a variety of architectural styles. Some of his Jacksonville designs include the Arcade Theatre, the Park Lane Apartments, the San Mateo Theatre and the Leon Cheek residence. He also designed numerous buildings throughout the state including dozens of theaters and served on the national board of the American Institute of Architects as a theater specialist.

Jacksonville Jewish Center (Conservative)
205 West 3rd Street 32206-4910
(904) 292-1000

Roy Benjamin designed this building in 1927 for the Jacksonville Jewish Center, founded in 1901 as the B'nai Israel Orthodox Congregation. The congregation wanted the building to be both a house of prayer and a

THE WOLFSON FAMILY

Morris and Sarah Wolfson of Jacksonville instilled in their children and grandchildren the Jewish obligation of *tzedaka*—to better the world by helping the less fortunate. Morris Wolfson was born in 1879 in Lithuania, and at 17, he emigrated to Baltimore where he met and married Sarah Goldberg (born in Baltimore, 1889). He moved his family first to St. Louis and then to Jacksonville. Sarah bore nine children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. Wolfson became a scrap dealer and accumulated great wealth. The family enriched the Jacksonville community in many ways, giving extensively to River Garden, Florida's oldest Jewish home for the aged. Today the Wolfson Health and Aging Center is part of River Garden. The five Wolfson sons were known for their athletic abilities and interests. Samuel, the eldest son (1909-1963) brought AAA baseball to town and broke the color barrier by hiring Hank Aaron. Wolfson High School and Wolfson Baseball Park, part of the Jacksonville Sports Center, were named for him. Louis, the second son, and his wife, Patrice, owned and bred the racehorse Affirmed at their Harbor View Farm in Ocala. Affirmed won thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown in 1978, a first for Florida. Morris Wolfson gave the city of Jacksonville a children's hospital as a way of expressing his gratitude for the many blessings of his life. Wolfson Children's Hospital, now part of Baptist/St. Vincent's Health System, is a major medical facility. It was named in memory of son Louis' first wife, the late Florence Monsky Wolfson.



River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health and Aging Center, Jacksonville

social center. A synagogue was housed upstairs and a meeting room and a basketball court were built below. An activities building was added in 1951. The congregation used this building until 1976. Today the Jewish Center is the largest Jewish congregation in Jacksonville.

Ahavath Chesed and B'nai Israel Cemeteries

Gate 5, Evergreen Cemetery, 4535 North Main Street 32206-1435 (904) 353-3649

Because the Jewish section at the Old City Cemetery was running out of space in 1890, the synagogue acquired three acres adjoining Evergreen Cemetery for Jewish burial. A makeshift fence was placed around the cemetery to set it apart from non-Jewish graves—a traditional Jewish practice. On April 16, 1890, Morris Cohen, a child, became the first person buried in the new Hebrew Cemetery. Ahavath Chesed later released part of this cemetery to B'nai Israel, the historic Orthodox congregation founded in 1901, now the Jacksonville Jewish Center.

River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health and Aging Center 11401 Old St. Augustine Road 32258 (904) 260-1818

This is the current home of River Garden, the oldest Jewish home for the aged in Florida. It was founded through the efforts of a women's organization that began as the Pushaloter Society Ladies Auxiliary

in the LaVilla Neighborhood. The Pushaloter Relief Society (for men) was founded in 1911 by immigrants from Pusalotas, Lithuania. Through the years the Ladies Auxiliary evolved into the Ladies Hebrew Sheltering & Aid Society and, today, the River Garden Auxiliary. The women fulfilled their dream to establish a "Hebrew Home for the Aged" in Jacksonville. In 1946, River Garden Home opened in a converted mansion at the corner of Riverside and Stockton Streets.

Workmen's Circle Branch #441 762 West Duval Street 32202-4824

The Workmen's Circle was an international fraternal organization that recognized Yiddish as a language, assisted in the formation of unions, and sponsored a system of Yiddish-based, Jewish schools. Its members tended to be intellectuals, political activists, Socialists, and espoused no religious beliefs. In 1910 the Workmen's Circle opened its Labor Lyceum as a center for its meetings, classes, and other activities.

LaVilla Neighborhood

LaVilla, a blue-collar, low-income neighborhood, was the area of first settlement for Eastern European Jewish immigrants to Jacksonville, from around 1890 to after World War I. The historic boundaries of this neighborhood were Bay Street to Beaver Street, Myrtle Avenue to Pearl Street. Jews lived mainly on Adams, Monroe, Duval, and Church Streets

and had their businesses on Adams, Broad, and Davis Streets. At the northwest corner of Jefferson and Duval, across from the YMHA, stood the Orthodox synagogue, B'nai Israel, founded in 1901.

Young Men's Hebrew Association
712 West Duval 32202-4824
(904) 356-9098

The YMHA was the center of communal activity for the Jews of the LaVilla Neighborhood. Built in 1914, the YMHA consisted of an office, a small meeting room, an auditorium, a balcony, and showers and lockers in the basement. At the northwest corner of Jefferson and Duval, across from the YMHA, stood the original B'nai Israel synagogue. This masonry vernacular building has been restored and is now the Maceo Elks Lodge.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

ST. AUGUSTINE

Congregation Sons of Israel (Conservative)
161 Cordova Street 32084-5021
(904) 829-9532

This congregation was founded in 1908 and the synagogue was dedicated in 1923. For decades before that, the Jews of St. Augustine and Fernandina Beach met in homes for religious worship. The synagogue was built in 1923 using stained glass windows from a 100-year-old Atlanta synagogue.

Congregation Sons of Israel Cemetery
113 Evergreen Avenue 32084
(904) 829-9532

The oldest unmarked grave in this cemetery is that of a Jewish peddler killed by Indians in 1840. His grave, supposedly beneath a large tree, was the reason why the surrounding land was designated a Jewish cemetery in 1911. The 1926 Jacksonville Jewish Year Book actually described the missing tombstone as having a Hebrew epitaph, "Here rests

Gershom ben Yosef who was killed by the Indians in 5601 (1840)." Today, the oldest marked grave is from 1911, belonging to Abe Schneider, who was murdered along with the sheriff who deputized him, when they attempted to transport an escaped convict.

ALACHUA COUNTY

ARCHER

Train Depot, Archer Community Museum, Archer Historical Society
Magnolia and Main 32618
(352) 495-1044

Archer celebrates the second Saturday of each June as David Levy Yulee Day in honor of the June 12, 1810, birthdate of Florida's first senator. Yulee named the town in 1855 to honor his friend, James T. Archer, Florida's first secretary of state. The central section of the depot dates from about 1860, when Yulee's railroad stopped in Archer on its cross-state route. The museum features an audiotaped reenactment of Yulee's last slave, Dolly Nattiel. A historical marker on David Levy Yulee is located on the site.

Cottonwood Plantation
East Archer, contact the **Archer Historical Society (352) 495-1044**
David Levy Yulee lived here during the Civil War. With Union troops approaching Fernandina, Yulee boarded the last train out and escaped to Cottonwood. Legend has

it that part of the Confederate treasury, about \$25,000, was briefly hidden here. The Kirby-Smith Chapter 202 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a historical marker at the site in 1939 and it was rededicated on David Levy Yulee Day in 1999.

GAINESVILLE

Gainesville Walking Tour

Several buildings in Gainesville's historic district were Jewish owned or operated. They include:

Endel Brothers General Department Store – NW corner of University Avenue and Main Street, Marcus Endel, owner;

B'nai Israel (First) Synagogue – NE corner of SW 2nd Place and SW 2nd Terrace;

Buns Shul, 18 SW 2nd Avenue, Abraham Buns, owner;

Commercial Hotel – 240 South Main Street, Mary Cohen Dzialynski, manager 1896-1902;

B'nai Israel Congregation (Conservative) – 3830 Northwest 16th Boulevard 32605 (352) 376-1508
This is the congregation's third and present location. Located inside is the Torah scroll that Moses Endel carried to Gainesville in 1865. A marble stone is embedded in the exterior facade that was engraved in the 1920s with the names of the nine founding families.



Congregation Sons of Israel, St. Augustine



Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Benjamin.

THE BENJAMIN FAMILY

The Benjamin family made many civic, mercantile, and architectural contributions to Florida. Simon Benjamin was one of the first members of this family to arrive in Florida. Born in 1850 in the Prussian province of Posen, Simon immigrated to Florida at the age of 17. He came to Alachua County to establish a business in the village of Waldo. As he journeyed to Waldo, his cousin, S.H. Benjamin met him at a railroad stop, a dry goods merchant already established in Micanopy. Simon stayed in Waldo for three years and then moved to Ocala, where his brother, Solomon, joined him. In 1884 Simon opened the East Florida Ice Manufacturing Company, which was said to be the first ice-making plant in Florida. In 1892, Simon and Solomon formed the Silver Springs and Ocala Gulf Railroad, running from Ocala to Dunnellon and Homosassa. In that year Solomon served as president of the Board of County Commissioners. In 1896 Simon was elected to the Ocala City Council. He also served as president of the Jewish congregation in Ocala. He moved to Jacksonville where he died in 1931 at the age of 81. Roy Benjamin (1887-1963), Simon's son, became

an architect who was acclaimed for his theater designs. Roy apprenticed in New York and Albany, Georgia, before moving to Jacksonville. He designed dozens of theaters in Florida and elsewhere in the South and served on the national board of the American Institute of Architects as a theater specialist. His Florida Theatre (Jacksonville), Jacksonville Jewish Center, Marble Arcade (Lakeland), and Edwards Theater (Sarasota) are on the *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail*. S.H. Benjamin, who had greeted his cousin Simon in 1867, came to Micanopy circa 1860. In 1885 he built the Benjamin Building, and in 1886 his daughter, Rosa, married his business partner, Jacob Katz, at a much-feted wedding. S. H. commissioned the Florida Southern Railroad to stop in Micanopy to take the wedding party and guests to Jacksonville as part of the festivities. S.H. and Jacob Katz continued in business together until 1901, when S.H. moved out of state. S.H. died in New York State circa 1905.

Masonic Temple
215 North Main Street 32601-5319
(352) 372-9350

As in many communities across Florida, there are strong ties between Gainesville's Jewish and Freemason communities. In Gainesville, Jewish High Holiday services were held at the Masonic Temple in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Marcus Endel served as Grand Master of Florida's Grand Lodge of Masons in 1893.

Jewish Cemetery
East University Avenue and
Waldo Road

This small cemetery, founded in 1871 and dedicated in 1872, is still in use. Gravesites at this cemetery include Gainesville Jewish pioneer, Moses Endel and his son, Marcus.

Matheson Historical Center
513 East University Avenue
32601-5451 (352) 378-2280

Housed in a 1932 American Legion building, this history museum and historic research library features archives of the Gainesville Jewish community. Included are historic materials on the Endel family, Joseph Weil, and David Levy Yulee. The collection also has minutes of the Daughters of Israel from the 1930s and 1940s, photographs and records of B'nai Israel Congregation, and Jewish community yearbooks and directories.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SITES
Hillel Foundation
16 Northwest 18th Street 32603-1835
(352) 372-2900

Hillel Houses provide a focus for Jewish social, cultural, and religious life on campuses throughout the nation. Founded in 1937 as the first Hillel in Florida, the present building was dedicated in 1952. This Hillel became a center not only for Jewish students but also for Jewish faculty and for the community at large. B'nai Israel Congregation, which had outgrown its small synagogue, used this building for religious school classes and other activities. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Buns, who operated the Buns Shul



Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, Gainesville

MOSES ELIAS LEVY

Moses Elias Levy, a founder of the city of Micanopy and father of David Levy Yulee, was born in 1781 in Morocco, where his father was a Moroccan government minister. When Moses' father died in 1800, the family moved to St. Thomas, West Indies. There young Levy built a successful lumber business, and, in 1803, married Hannah Abendanone. They subsequently had two sons and two daughters. Levy moved to Havana in 1816 where he made a fortune in shipping and soon acquired 50,000 acres of the Arrendondo grant in Spanish Florida, near today's Micanopy. In 1821 Levy moved to Florida, then to Micanopy where, in 1822, he became a naturalized American citizen. Levy established Pilgrimage Plantation, which he hoped to transform into a colony for persecuted European Jews. He built houses, dug wells, and sought international support for his haven. Pilgrimage Plantation was burned in the Second Seminole War in 1835, and, although it remained a sugar plantation, it never turned a profit. Levy not only planned for the rescue of persecuted Jews, he also published a plan to abolish slavery. He became a proponent for free education in Florida and was a charter officer of the Florida Education Society. By the 1840s Levy owned 100,000 acres throughout the state, including land along the St. Johns River southward to where the city of Sanford was later built, and westward to Tampa Bay. Throughout his life Levy strictly observed the kosher laws just as they were written in the Torah, continually seeking to improve conditions for his co-religionists throughout the world. Moses Elias Levy died in 1854.

synagogue during the 1920s and 1930s, donated the Torah scroll at Hillel.

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica 1504 Norman Hall 32611 (352) 392-0308

With its more than 60,000 titles, the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica is the largest in the Southeast, concentrating on the political, social, economic and intellectual history of Jewish culture in all historical periods. At the time of its acquisition in 1977, the Price Library was the largest private library of Judaica and Hebraica in the United States. Dedicated on March 8, 1981, the library's core collection is formed by the Rabbi Leonard C. Mishkin Library. The library is named in honor of a Jacksonville family active in Jewish community life.

George Smathers Library, Department of Special Collections University of Florida (352) 392-6547
This library includes the David Levy Yulee Papers; the Machal Archives which documents American volunteers in Israel's 1948 War of Independence; and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program which includes taped interviews with many Jewish Floridians.

Tau Epsilon Pi Fraternity 1105 West University Avenue 32601-5385 (352) 376-4446
The fraternity, founded in February 1925, was one of the first two Jewish

fraternities at the University of Florida. Jews founded their own Greek societies because they were generally excluded from membership in gentile fraternities and sororities. It is now the office of the *Independent Florida Alligator*, the University of Florida's student newspaper.

Joseph Weil Hall Stadium Road

This hall was renamed to honor the late dean of the College of Engineering whose office was located in the building. Weil was a leader of the local Jewish community and the first president of B'nai Israel Congregation.

MICANOPY

Benjamin Building (O' Brisky Books) 100 block of Cholokka Boulevard 32667 (352) 466-3910

The Benjamin Building, built by S. H. Benjamin in 1885, was the first two-story brick building in Micanopy. The second story was lost in a fire long ago. Between 1883 and 1901, Benjamin and his partner, Jacob Katz, operated a dry goods and furniture business at this location.

Micanopy Historical Society Museum Cholokka Boulevard and Bay Street 32667 (352) 466-3200

The museum houses an exhibit covering four generations of Micanopy Benjamins, with portraits, china and silver as well as S. H. Benjamin's woolen suspenders and his ivory-handled walking cane. Also



Lemon Street, Palatka (now St. Johns Avenue)

on display is the *Micanopy Gazette*, featuring front-page ads for fabrics and clothing during the grand opening sale at S.H. Benjamin & Co's. The collection includes pictures of the Benjamin Building when it was first constructed and as it appears today.

PUTNAM COUNTY

PALATKA

During the 19th century, many Jews came to Palatka to seek their fortune. They traveled from Jacksonville on the St. Johns River and settled in Palatka, a prosperous mill town and tourist destination. Here they opened small retail stores on Lemon Street, today known as St. Johns Avenue. By 1926, there were approximately 100 Jews in Palatka. Although the original stores are gone, many of their houses remain in the city's historic districts. For more information about Palatka's historic sites, contact the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, 1100 Reid Street (904) 328-1503.

Calhoun House (Azalea House Bed & Breakfast) 220 Madison Street 32177-3531 (904) 325-4547

This Victorian style mansion, built by Marcus Loeb between 1878 and 1883, has been restored. Visitors are welcome. The house is noted for its encircling verandas, multigabled roof and stained glass windows.

Loeb House

510 North 3rd Street 32177-3518

Marcus Loeb built this Victorian style house in 1886 for his own residence. Loeb arrived in Palatka in the early 1880s and opened a clothing store. He was president of Palatka's first telephone company and vice president of the old East Florida Savings and Trust Company. He was a member of the city council from 1884 to at least 1896, and grandmaster and treasurer of the Palatka Masonic Lodge.

Jacobson House

300 North 3rd Street 32177

Dry goods merchant Leo Jacobson and his wife Lottie were the first occupants of this Colonial Revival style house, built in 1912. Its two-story veranda with balustrades and four-sided "hip" roof are reminiscent of the earlier Eastlake style. The

Jacobsons also owned the similar house next door at 304 North 3rd Street.

Lilienthal House

524 South 17th Street 32177-4715

Bavarian-born B. H. Lilienthal was the first mayor of Palatka Heights, an early suburb. He moved to Palatka in 1874, bought this lot in 1875, and built this Victorian frame vernacular house around 1880. Lilienthal was a city councilman for Palatka in the 1870s and county treasurer in 1895.

Meyer House

508 Laurel Street 32177-5146

Israel and Dina Meyer were the first occupants of this Victorian style house, built circa 1885. Meyer was one of the earliest Jewish merchants in downtown Palatka. The two-story portico, patterned in cut-turned balustrades and brackets, is in the Eastlake style.



S.H. Benjamin & Co.



CENTRAL AND CENTRAL EAST FLORIDA



United Hebrews of Ocala Temple, built in 1888

Jewish mayor. Rheinauer's was to become one of Florida's most fashionable clothing stores. A young Isaac Maas clerked for Rheinauer in the early 1880s. Within a few years Maas joined his own brother, Abe, in Tampa where they founded the Maas Brothers Department Store.

United Hebrews of Ocala Cemetery
North Magnolia Avenue and Northeast 14th Street 34475-9077 (352) 629-3587 or (352) 624-0380
This is the fourth oldest Jewish cemetery in Florida, dating from 1873. Marcus Frank, Charles Rheinauer, and Joe and Fred Malever are among those buried here.

United Hebrews of Ocala Temple
719 Northeast 2nd Street 34470-6755
Florida's oldest existing synagogue dates from 1888, the year the congregation was founded. This wooden building was the third synagogue built in Florida after the Pensacola and Jacksonville synagogues. Its original stained glass windows are still in place.

Mack's (women's clothing store), Hyman and Celia Roth, 1910, at 130 South Beach Street;
Doby's (men's clothing store), Sam and Bessie Dobrow, 100 North Beach Street;
Nass's Bootery;
Jay's Dress Shop;
Henry Silverstein's Luggage.

Thelma Schlossberg Room, Florida Braille and Talking Book Library
420 Platt Street 32114 (904) 239-6000 or (800) 226-6075
Thelma Schlossberg spent many years at this library teaching herself and others to transcribe books into Braille. In the 1980s, the library created the Thelma Schlossberg Room as a place for her to conduct Braille workshops. Braille also has been a major project of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, originally of Daytona Beach, now of Ormond Beach. This library is part of the Division of Blind Services for the State of Florida.

MARION COUNTY

OCALA

Marcus Frank House (Anderson-Frank House) 728 Fort King Avenue 34471

This elegant 1891 Classical Revival style house was the residence of Marcus Frank. In 1899, 16-year-old Frank and his widowed mother, Julia, moved from South Florida to Ocala. Frank rose to prominence as a businessman while serving as a city councilman for 16 years, and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1939 and 1948.

Rheinauer & Brothers First Store
20 Southeast Broadway 34471-2132
Charles Rheinauer, son of a cantor, settled in Ocala in 1882. His brothers Maurice and Ben worked with him in the clothing business. In 1906, Charles became Ocala's second

VOLUSIA COUNTY

DAYTONA BEACH

Beach Street Retailers
200 North Beach Street to 200 South Beach Street 32114

For 80 years Jewish-owned retail shops dominated these blocks of Beach Street. Among the earliest was Ginsberg's Panama Hat Store. Jacob and Anna Ginsberg came to Daytona Beach in 1908 and are considered its first Jewish family. Other Jewish-owned stores located on Beach Street were:

BREVARD COUNTY

COCOA

Rubin Brothers Department Store
100 Harrison Street, Northwest corner of Harrison and Delany Streets 32922-7913

This site—once the largest store in Brevard County—is in the quaint area now known as Cocoa Village. Isadore and Anna Holtsberg Rubin settled in Cocoa in 1914. They had this building constructed to house their third store. Isadore was very active in civic affairs and was elected councilman in 1926. He served eight years until the



HARRY PEPPER AND MACK ROTH

Harry Pepper and Mack Roth were the pivotal organizers of the Daytona Beach Jewish community. Harry Pepper was born in Austria in 1889. He was sent to America at the age of six as the traveling companion of an older sister. They were joined a few years later by their parents and other siblings. The Peppers settled in Providence, Rhode Island, where Harry married Bella Berman in 1910. Six years later, Harry had difficulty recuperating from an appendectomy, and his doctor recommended a change of climate. Harry and Bella Pepper then moved to Florida, first to Jacksonville and then to Daytona Beach, where the Peppers joined a Jewish "community" of two families and a few single men. Harry became a dealer in junk products and secondhand automobiles and auto parts. His business flourished and, during the land boom in the mid-1920s, he switched to real estate. Harry built Pep's Pool, the first public swimming pool in Daytona Beach and the first salt-water swimming pool in Florida. Jewish newcomers to Daytona Beach were welcomed at the Pepper home and Jewish

holidays were celebrated there as well. During World War II, the Pepper home became a gathering place for Jewish servicemen and servicewomen.

Hyman Roth (1869-1940) and Celia Roth (1870-1935) arrived in Daytona Beach in 1910 and opened a women's clothing store named Mack's Shop after one of their nine children. Later, Mack Roth operated the store that bore his name, which stood at 130 South Beach Street. As a close friend of Governor David Sholtz, Roth organized the welfare agencies of Orange, Osceola, Putnam, Volusia, and Flagler counties. Roth and his wife, Estelle, were active promoters of many Jewish causes. In 1924 Mack Roth and Harry Pepper helped found the Daytona Hebrew Association in order to establish a Jewish congregation and a Jewish cemetery. In 1924 the association acquired the land that became Mt. Sinai Cemetery and founded Temple Israel. Mack Roth was appointed president for three months. Harry Pepper followed as the first elected president.

Depression caused the family to move to Miami. The Rubins are believed to be the only Jewish family to have lived in Cocoa during those years. When they moved, the city of Cocoa declared "Isadore Rubin Day" in appreciation for his civic contributions. The family produced three mayors: Fred Holsberg and Bernard Rubin in Fort Pierce, and Philip Rubin in Crystal River.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

SANFORD

Jewish Center of Sanford
203 East 16th Street 32771

Sometimes called Beth Israel Temple, this synagogue was built in 1927 by Abraham H. Moses and dedicated in memory of his wife, Annie. The local Jewish community owned it until 1968.

Manuel Jacobson's Department Store (Hotchkiss Block)
213 East First Street 32771

Jacobson's Department Store occupied this 1886 Romanesque Revival style brick building for many years. Manuel and Hannah Jacobson arrived in Sanford in 1931. His brothers Herman and Arthur who, in 1925, opened the H & A Department Store at 401 South Sanford Avenue preceded them. Manuel's first store was the Outlet, diagonally across from H & A. In the 1950s, the brothers relocated their businesses to First Street. Herman and his wife, Rose Edith, opened Ro-Jay, a women's fashion store in the historic Meisch Building, at 224 East First Street. The Jacobsons were part of a sizeable Jewish community that at one time outnumbered the Jewish community of nearby Orlando.

Moses Clock and Park First Street and Magnolia Avenue
Abraham H. and Annie Moses arrived in Sanford in 1909 and established a produce farm. Abe acquired this clock in 1930 when he purchased the First National Bank at 101 East First Street. He donated it to

the city, where it was initially used as part of a traffic signal at Park and First. When it became apparent that the clock was more hazard than help, the city removed it. In 1985, the Moses' granddaughter Stella Oritt and her husband purchased the clock, had it restored and donated it to the city of Sanford in memory of her grandparents. She stipulated that she wanted the clock to be located on Magnolia—the street where she had lived as a child. The clock and a commemorative plaque were placed in this tiny park on Sanford's main business street.

ORANGE COUNTY

MAITLAND

Holocaust Memorial and Resource Education Center

851 North Maitland Avenue 32751
(407) 628-0555

This building was constructed in 1986. The six bay-glass windows in front feature an eternal flame in memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Six columns that represent the smoke stacks of the crematoria flank the building. Adjacent to the Center is a memorial garden. The Center houses

a museum, a library, and facilities for its education program. The permanent exhibit contains the following sections: The Life Before; In the Camps; Resistance; Final Solution; Liberation; Witness Histories; and Local Survivors and Liberators. Wolf Kahn, a refugee from the Holocaust who lives in Maitland, designed the Center's door.

ORLANDO

Berman House

830 Lucerne Terrace 32801-3732

Nat and Pauline Berman came to Orlando in 1908 and moved into this house circa 1935. Their daughter and her husband lived in the house behind at 115 West Gore. Pauline Berman was an activist who called the meeting that resulted in the formation of Ohev Shalom, Orlando's first Jewish congregation. A major force in the civil rights movement, she was regarded as the first female radio news commentator in the nation and hosted her own radio program from 1930 to 1933.

Dr. P. Phillips' Original Home

211 North Lucerne Circle East 32801
(407) 648-5188

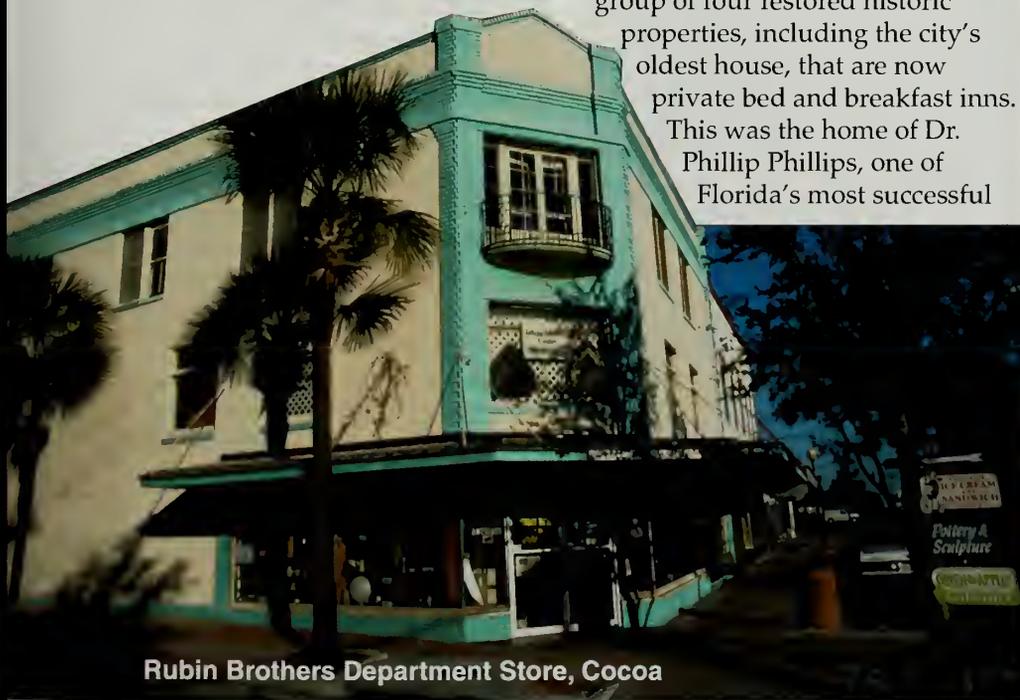
This restored 1893 house is part of the Courtyard of Lake Lucerne—a group of four restored historic properties, including the city's oldest house, that are now private bed and breakfast inns.

This was the home of Dr. Phillip Phillips, one of Florida's most successful



JACOB RAPHAEL COHEN

Jacob R. Cohen was one of the drafters of the Orlando City Charter and a member of the city council in Orlando and in Tallahassee. Born in 1850, Cohen moved to Florida in the 1860s and opened a series of general stores in Florida's frontier settlements in Fort Meade, Fort Ogden, Bartow, and Palatka around 1870 and in Orlando in 1873. Cohen was assisted in some of his early businesses by his brother-in-law Philip Dzialynski, who had married Cohen's sister, Mary, in 1865. Cohen furthered his connection with the Dzialynski family in 1877 when he married Philip's niece, Rachel Williams, the daughter of Robert and Helena Dzialynski Williams of Tallahassee. Upon his marriage, Cohen moved to Tallahassee. In 1890, as a member of the Tallahassee City Council, Cohen introduced a resolution that designated two cemetery plots in the Old City Cemetery for Jewish burial. This was the first Jewish burial ground in Tallahassee. Cohen died in Tallahassee in November of that year.



Rubin Brothers Department Store, Cocoa

early citrus growers. Phillips came to Orlando in 1897 to buy land for groves. His empire grew to over 5,000 acres. In 1916, Dr. Phillips built a theater at 25 South Orange Avenue. In addition to the theater's live entertainment, it also became what is believed to have been Orlando's first movie house. Dr. Phillips was active in many social and civic organizations during his lifetime. As a result, there are numerous sites in the Orlando area that bear his name. The Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, now a rehearsal hall for the Orlando Civic Opera, also is located at 25 South Orange Avenue. Today the Dr. P. Phillips Foundation annually

awards funds to civic and cultural activities.

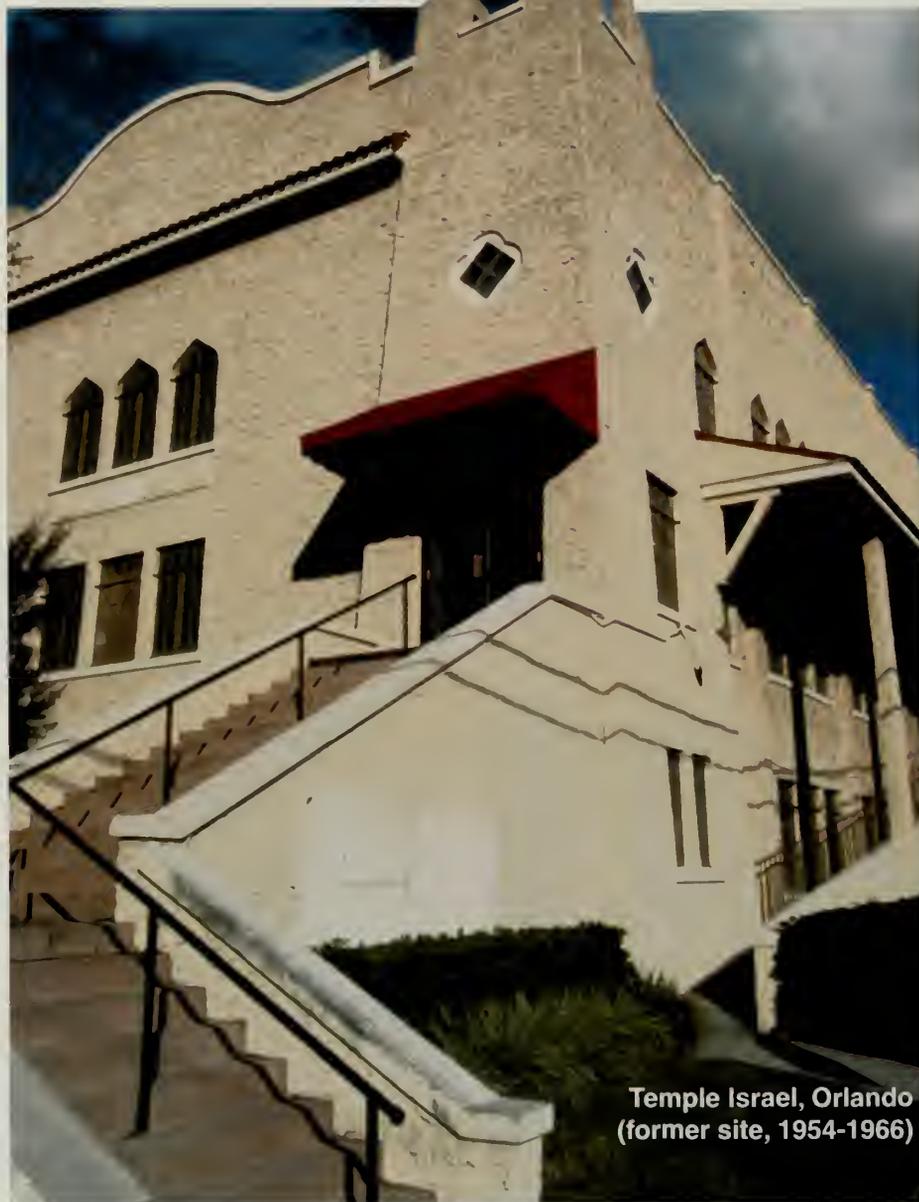
Mennello Museum of American Folk Art, 900 East Princeton Street 32801 (407) 246-4278

Originally the home of Dr. Phillips' son, this structure was built in 1971, renovated in 1998 and reopened that year as the Mennello Museum. Permanently displayed in the gardens and in front of the museum are the whimsical sculptured creatures crafted by Paul Marco from welded farm implements. Marco (1911-1997) was born in Czechoslovakia and in later years divided his time be-

tween Sarasota and Maine. His wife Eva, a survivor of Auschwitz, was a painter.

**Ohev Shalom Cemetery
Old Winter Garden Road, 1/4 mile West of Kirkman Road 32835 (407) 298-4650**

This is the oldest of Orlando's Jewish cemeteries, founded in 1927 and originally called Mount Neboh. Buried here are members of Jewish families who came to Central Florida in the early 1900s—the Salomons, Kanners, and Bermans. Also interred here are Shaders, Wittensteins, Meitins, Levys, and Millers—members of Pittsburgh families who emigrated to Orlando circa 1912. Israel Shader (who is buried in Pittsburgh) brought a Torah scroll to Orlando and conducted religious services in a citrus grove, midway between his land and the adjoining Levy farm. The Shader Torah is buried at this cemetery. Jewish tradition requires sacred books and scrolls to be buried as part of a religious ceremony. Such a burial is one of the steps that may be undertaken to consecrate land for a Jewish cemetery.



Temple Israel, Orlando (former site, 1954-1966)

THREE FORMER SYNAGOGUES IN DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

The city's three historic Jewish congregations were located in the downtown area where many of their congregants lived.

Congregation of Liberal Judaism (Reform) 301 North Ferncreek Avenue 32803-5400

The Liberal Jewish Fellowship, founded in 1948, became the Congregation of Liberal Judaism two years later. This 1951 building was the congregation's first synagogue. Liberal remained here until 1971.

Ohev Shalom Congregation (Conservative) 525 East Church Street 32835

Orlando's first synagogue dates from 1926. Ohev Shalom, Orlando's oldest Jewish congregation, founded in 1918, remained at this site until

1972. George Miller, who married one of Israel Shader's daughters, designed the Neo-classical Revival style building. Its original stained glass windows are still in place.

Temple Israel (Conservative)

331 Cathcart Avenue 32803-5630

Temple Israel was chartered in 1954 and soon bought this 1928 Mediterranean Revival style church. The congregation remained here until 1966.

POLK COUNTY

LAKELAND

Munn Historic District

Estroff's Department Store

224-228 East Pine 33801

The restored 1903 Clonts Building was an early site of Nathan Estroff's Department Store, located here from 1925 to the mid-1930s.

Marble Arcade Building

129 South Kentucky Avenue 33801

This ten-story office building was designed by Roy Benjamin in 1926-1927 and restored in 1988. It was Lakeland's first steel frame high-rise building and for nearly 40 years was considered the city's most prestigious office location. The building follows the style of the famous American architect, Louis L. Sullivan, by combining strong vertical and horizontal lines with more classical details.

Nathan and Leonard Wolf Citrus Groves Highway 540 at Highway 98 and 548, across from University of South Florida Lakeland Campus

The Wolf Citrus Groves can be viewed from this vantage point. Nat Wolf and later his son, Leonard, operated extensive groves throughout Central Florida beginning in the 1930s. Nat's first grove was in Lake Garfield, now on the site of a phosphate mine. Nat Avenue and Wolf Avenue in Arcadia are reminders of Nat Wolf's groves there. Other Wolf groves are north of Sebring.

Original Temple Emanuel (Conservative)

308 West Patterson 33803-1242

In 1926, 16 Jewish families met above a store on Main Street to hold religious services, forming the Jewish Alliance of Lakeland. In 1932, the Jewish Alliance purchased this church building for \$1,000 and remodeled it into its first synagogue. As their numbers grew, the congregation became known as Temple Emanuel. They remained here until 1962 when they moved to their current location.

Temple Emanuel (Conservative)

600 Lake Hollingworth Drive 33803-2363 (941) 682-8616

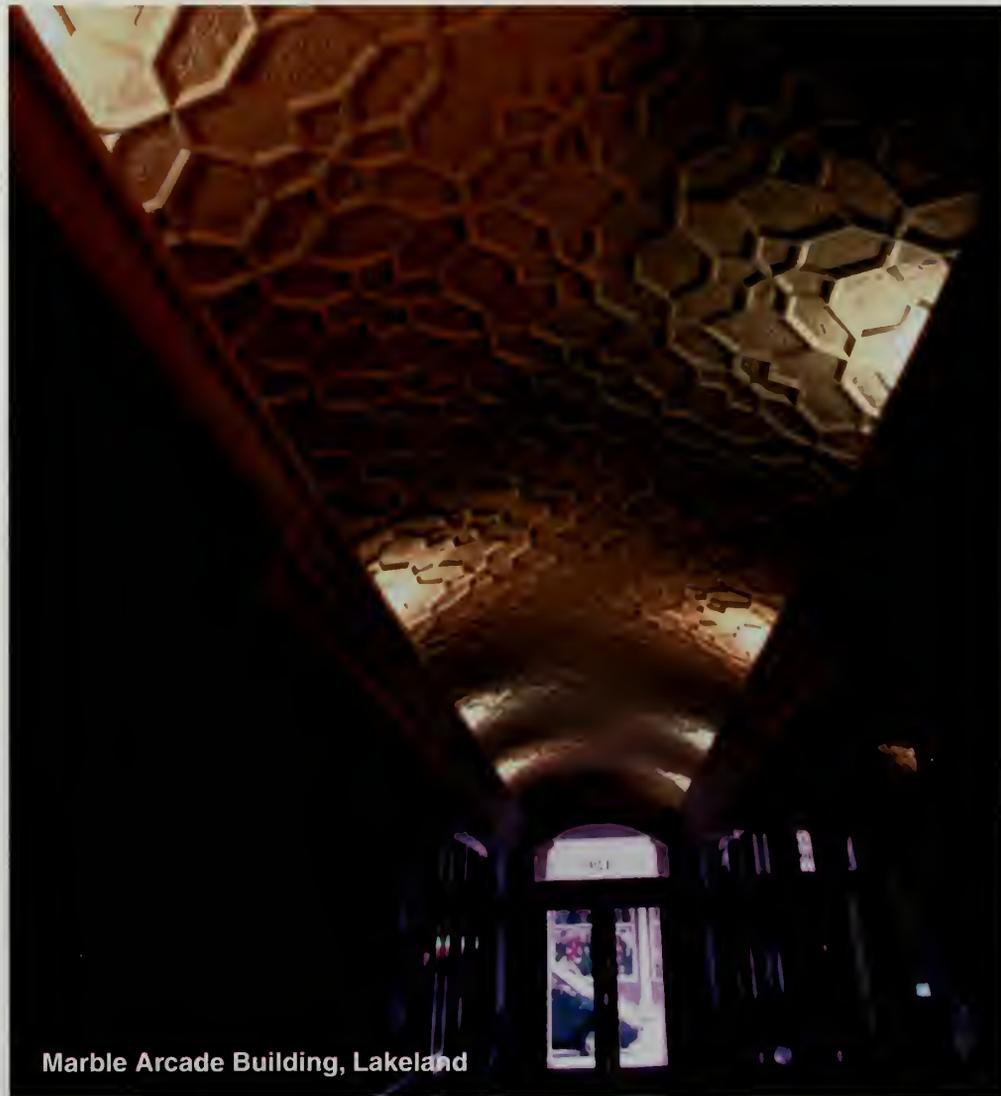
This 1962 synagogue, located across the lake from Florida Southern

College, was the first built in Lakeland. The congregation built this synagogue adjacent to its original site which burned down.

Wolfson's Famous Stores

236 N. Kentucky Avenue 33801-4979

Cyrus Wolfson, believed to be the first Jewish settler in Lakeland, came here in 1909 to collect a bill. So impressed was he with the town that he moved his family here three years later and opened his first Famous Store at 236 North Kentucky Avenue. This building later served as The Strand, Lakeland's first movie theater. He then moved his store to 121 East Main Street before moving to its third and final location at 211-215 East Main Street from 1920 to 1932. He was so proud of this store



Marble Arcade Building, Lakeland

that he changed its name from Famous Store to Famous Department Store. Inside were solid mahogany counters with slide-out shelves.

Wolfson's Drug Store
1211 South Florida 33803

Wilfred Wolfson (Cyrus Wolfson's son) opened the first drive-in drug-store in Lakeland. He constructed this building in 1953. He built his second at 1401 Lakeland Hills Boulevard. Although it closed in 1988, his third store, at 2518 South Florida, still bears his name—Wolfson Drug Store.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

SEBRING

Kahn's Department Store
(Nan-Ces-O-Wee Hotel)
133-145 North Ridgewood Drive
33870-7202

Mike and Sadie Kahn, immigrants from Lithuania who barely spoke English, came to the young town of Sebring in 1921 in search of opportunity. Developer George Sebring warmly welcomed them. By 1925, Kahn's Department Store occupied part of the ground floor of George Sebring's 1923 Nan-Ces-O-Wee Hotel. The three-story brick building is the largest surviving commercial building in downtown Sebring. In 1933, Michael Kahn began acquiring citrus groves and farmland. After his death in 1943, Sadie began managing the groves. She is credited with installing the first modern irrigation system in Highlands County. Some of the original pipe is still used to irrigate the Kahn groves. A little park, dedicated to her, adjoins the hotel building.

Jewish Section, Sebring Municipal Cemetery, Cemetery Road
(941) 385-0101

Recognizing the need for a Jewish cemetery, the Kahn family bought approximately 100 contiguous gravesites at the municipal cemetery

in the 1960s. The remains of Michael Kahn, who had been buried in 1943 in an Orlando Jewish cemetery, were transported to the family plot in Sebring. Reburials, rarely permitted under Jewish law, are allowed when the remains are moved to a family gravesite or when they are moved from a non-Jewish cemetery to one that has been consecrated for Jewish burial.

MARTIN COUNTY

STUART

Old Martin County Court House
80 East Ocean Boulevard 34994
(561) 287-6676

Judge Abraham Otto (A. O.) Kanner served on the circuit court in this building from 1941 to 1957. The courtroom and judges' chambers were located on the second floor. Kanner was born in Sanford in 1893 and moved to Stuart in 1925 where he would live for the remainder of his life. He served in the Florida Legislature from 1927 to 1941 and later as the first Chief Justice of Florida's newly created 2nd District Court of Appeals. Kanner foresaw the economic importance of being

able to truck produce from inland farms to markets on the East Coast and beyond. To accomplish this, he convinced the state to construct State Road 76 from Lake Okeechobee's eastern shore at Port Mayaca to U.S. Highway 1 at Stuart. After his death in 1967, State Road 76 was renamed the A.O. Kanner Highway. This 1937 Art Deco style courthouse was restored in 1990 and turned into an art museum.



Old Martin County Court House, Stuart

CENTRAL WEST AND SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

CITRUS COUNTY

HOMOSASSA

Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins State Historic Site and Park

One mile west of Homosassa on Highway 490. For information contact the Crystal River State Archaeological Site, 3400 North Museum Point, Crystal River 34428 (352) 795-3817.

David Levy Yulee, Florida's first U.S. Senator, once owned a thriving sugar plantation at this location. Dating from 1851, it covered more than 5,000 acres and produced cotton, citrus crops and sugar cane. The sugar mill, which is located near the Homosassa River, operated for 13 years producing sugar, syrup, and molasses. When the house on Tiger Tail Island was burned by Union troops in 1864, the mill was abandoned and the plantation left in ruins. The site includes remnants of the mill and picnic areas.



Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins, Homosassa

PINELLAS COUNTY

CLEARWATER

Holocaust Memorial at Temple B'nai Israel (Reform)

1685 South Belcher Road 33764
(727) 531-5829

Alfred Tibor's 23-foot Holocaust Memorial is a focal point for Holocaust education in Pinellas County. Inside the synagogue visitors will find backlit stained glass windows that were made in pre-Holocaust Germany for a synagogue in Indiana. The windows were found at a flea market in Pinellas County. A member of the congregation purchased them

and donated them to the temple in memory of a loved one. B'nai Israel was founded shortly after World War II and is the oldest Jewish congregation in Clearwater. The current synagogue was built in 1972.

Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park, Jewish Section

2860 Sunset Point Road 33759
(727) 796-1992

Most of Clearwater's pioneer Jews are buried in this cemetery, including Louis and Hannah Frank. Louis Frank is considered to be the first permanent Jewish resident of Pinellas County. Frank settled in Clearwater in 1911 and founded the New York Department Store the following year.

ST. PETERSBURG

Florida Holocaust Museum
55 Fifth Street South 33701
(727) 820-0100

The museum opened at this site in 1998 in a renovated bank with 27,000 square feet of exhibit space. The first

floor houses the permanent exhibit, which includes a boxcar once used by the Nazis to transport Jews and others to extermination camps. The exhibit is divided into 12 sections that cover pre-war life in Eastern Europe, the Holocaust, concentration camps and the birth of the State of Israel. Special exhibitions are shown on the second floor. The museum also houses a theater, a meditation court, an archive repository with video testimonies, a learning center, and a library and resource center.

Maas Brothers Department Store (Florida International Museum)

100 2nd Street North 33701
(727) 821-1448

This building is the former 300,000-square-foot Maas Brothers Department Store that operated here from 1948 to 1991. It was one of the largest of the Maas Brothers stores in the state, and in downtown St. Petersburg. The museum opened in January 1995 and showcases major traveling exhibitions.

Temple Beth El (Reform)
Arlington, between 7th and 8th North

St. Petersburg's historic Reform congregation was founded in the late 1920s. The congregation built this synagogue in 1932. Beth El remained here until 1962 when it moved to its current location at 400 Pasadena Avenue South.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

PLANT CITY

Wishnatzki and Nathel Strawberries
100 Stearns Street 33566-5045
(813) 752-5111

This company has been known since the 1930s as the Winter Strawberry King because most winter strawberries in the country once came from Plant City. Polish immigrants Harris and Yetta Wishnatzki came to Plant City in the early 1930s. Deeply proud of his Jewish heritage, Harris designed his produce label with a Star of David, in spite of threats from his competition. The family still uses the label on all the produce it distributes

to supermarkets. People are welcome to stop and buy strawberries, although Wishnatzki and Nathel Strawberries does not operate as a retail outlet.

TAMPA

Jewish Merchants of Franklin Street
500 through 1500 blocks of North Franklin Street 33602

North Franklin Street, now a pedestrian mall, was long dominated by Jewish-owned retail establishments. In 1903 there were 16 Jewish-owned stores on Franklin Street. By 1926 there were 40, including haberdasheries, milliners, ladies' fashions, hosiery, dry goods, jewelers, shoes, and furniture. Among the peddlers and merchants was German immigrant Morris Wolf. Wolf went to work for the Maas brothers in their clothing store and later opened his own custom clothing store. Maas Brothers, Wolf Brothers, O. Falk and the dozens of smaller retail stores along this strip influenced the buying habits of several generations of shoppers who came to Franklin Street from a wide region of Florida.

Maas Brothers

612-20 North Franklin Street 33602

Maas Brothers, in business for over 100 years from 1886 to 1991, was Florida's largest department store chain. At one time, 19 Maas Brothers stores operated in Florida. Abe Maas left Ocala for Tampa in 1884 and was soon joined by his brother Isaac. After the brothers retired in 1929 their nephew, Jerome Waterman, succeeded them. Waterman was an aviator who promoted the growth of aviation in Tampa and later helped found National Airlines. Waterman is remembered at MacDill Air Force Base, south of Tampa, where a room in the Officer's Club is named for him.

Daisy G. Waterman Lighthouse for the Blind
1106 West Platt Street
33606-2142 (813) 251-2407

Daisy Waterman and the Tampa section of the National Council of Jewish Women spearheaded the community project that built the Lighthouse for the Blind. Waterman also helped found Tampa's first Braille program, undertaken by the Sisterhood of Temple Schaarai Zedek.

Schaarai Zedek (Reform)
3303 Swann Avenue 33609
(813) 876-2377

Schaarai Zedek was founded on October 14, 1894, as Florida's fifth Jewish congregation. The congregation built its first synagogue in 1899 at 1205 Florida Avenue, where it remained until 1923. In 1957 the congregation moved to Swann Avenue. The cornerstones from the 1899 and 1924 synagogues are embedded in the present building. Some of the congregation's early archives may be seen by appointment.

Tampa Bay History Center
225 South Franklin Street 33602-
5329 (813) 228-0097

The Tampa Bay History Center has memorabilia relating to the early Jewish community of Tampa. Included in the collection is the



Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg



Ybor Square, Ybor City, Tampa

sterling silver trowel that was used by Mayor Herman Glogowski at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the historic Tampa Bay Hotel, now the University of Tampa. On permanent display is Nellye Israelson Friedman's Women's Air Corps uniform from World War II.

Woodlawn Cemetery
3508-3612 North Ola Avenue 33603
(813) 837-1911 or 876-2377
Tampa's first Jewish cemetery was founded in 1894. Among those buried here are Herman Glogowski, mayor of Tampa from 1882 to 1892.

Glogowski is credited with bringing sidewalks and electric lights to downtown Tampa. Others buried here include Henry Brash, an early mayor of Marianna; his wife, Sarah Zelnicker Brash, a founder of the National Council of Jewish Women's Tampa chapter; Ben Brown, postmaster of Bartow; and his wife Ricka Maas Brown.

Ybor City Walking Tour
(map on page 29)
Since the early days of wooden sidewalks and gaslights, Jewish merchants, manufacturers and

laborers were present in Ybor City—many in cigar-related establishments. Jews were part of the migration that followed cigar manufacturer Vicente Martínez Ybor from Key West in 1886. In addition to working in the cigar shops and factories, they opened stores and businesses that served the diverse community such as Isadore Kaunitz's dry goods business in 1891 and Adam Katz's 1892 department store, the largest in Ybor City at that time.

By 1920 there were more than 30 Jewish business owners in Ybor City, including grocers, clothiers, dry goods merchants, jewelers, cigar manufacturers and cigar box makers. Louis Wohl, restaurant designer and supplier, owned an entire block on 6th Avenue. Isadore Kaunitz built Ybor City's first brick building in 1894. Max Argintar came to Ybor City in 1903 and opened his own store. His building still bears his name. Edward Steinberg arrived in Tampa in 1892 and opened a clothing firm while working with two Jewish organizations to assist other immigrants. David Stein opened his furniture store in Ybor City in 1917 and had his own building constructed in 1920. Jewish merchant J. M. Buchman was proprietor of a dry goods store. The Buchman family owned and operated businesses in Ybor City from the early 1900s to the 1980s.

For more sites and information on the Ybor City Walking Tour, visit the Florida Jewish Heritage Trail website at: <http://www.flheritage.com/magazine/jht>.

Standard Cigar Corporation
2701 North 16th Street 33605-2616
(813) 248-2124

Standard Cigar was founded by Stanford and Millard Newman. In the 1960s, the company claimed to produce 70 million cigars per year. Another Jewish-owned cigar business, Regensburg & Company, opened a factory here in 1911. This is now the working factory of J.D.

Newman Cigar Company, renamed for the Newman patriarch, Julius. The building has been enlarged and rehabilitated over the years.

Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA)

2105 Nebraska Avenue 33602

Originally this building housed the German-American Club, founded in 1901 to promote German culture. Its early membership included Jews as well as Christians. Herman Glogowski was its first president. YMHA acquired the building in 1924 and remained here until 1944. At that time, the three-story building contained a ballroom, auditorium and stage, bowling alleys and meeting rooms. The Young Men's Hebrew Association was the forerunner of the Jewish Community Center.

MANATEE COUNTY

ELLENTON

Gamble Mansion and Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial State Historic Site

3708 Patten Avenue 34222

US 301 East (941) 723-4536

In May 1865, this site became the hiding place for Jewish Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin. He stayed in a second-floor bedroom with a balcony that provided a good lookout for Union troops. From here he escaped to England where he

became a barrister. In 1925 the Judah P. Benjamin Daughters of the Confederacy turned the Gamble plantation into a memorial and deeded the plantation to the State of Florida in 1926. A small museum in a separate building includes a portrait of Benjamin's wife and a saber he presented to a captain for aiding in his escape.

SARASOTA COUNTY

SARASOTA

Edwards Theater (Sarasota Opera House) 61 North Pineapple Avenue 34236-5723 (941) 366-8450

Roy A. Benjamin, a Jewish architect particularly renowned for his theater designs, designed this restored 1926 Mediterranean Revival style theater. The building included shops, apartments, and a 1,500-seat auditorium.

Temple Beth Shalom (Conservative) 1050 South Tuttle Avenue 34237-8199 (941) 955-8121

Before 1925, Jewish worship services were held in the home of Philip and Cecelia Levy. In 1925, a congregation called the Jewish Community Center of Sarasota was founded. The first Yom Kippur services were held on the second floor of the Tyler Building on 3rd Street. The congregation's first synagogue (1928) was built on property donated by the city on Washington Avenue between 6th and

7th Streets. In 1958 the congregation acquired the land at its present location and erected an educational building. Groundbreaking for the synagogue took place in 1972. Inside, a portion of the *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida* traveling exhibit relates the history of the Sarasota Jewish community.

Temple Beth Shalom Cemetery 3715 Circus Boulevard 34232 (941) 955-8121

The city of Sarasota donated land for the cemetery to the Jewish community. The earliest burial dates from 1932. At the cemetery's entrance is a plaque honoring the founders. Among them are Philip H. Levy, who arrived in Sarasota in 1913 and who, with his wife, operated Cecelia Levy & Company women's clothing store. Another founder, Joe Idelson, established the Sarasota Department Store on Main Street in the 1920s. Cattle rancher Simon Rosin, mayor of Arcadia, is buried in the cemetery, as is his son, Marcus Aurel Rosin, a Sarasota city attorney and president of the Florida State Elks Association from 1949-1950.

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall 777 North Tamiami Trail 34236-4047 (941) 953-3366

Lewis and Eugenia Van Wezel, a prominent Jewish couple of Sarasota, devoted themselves to Sarasota's civic improvement. The distinctive purple-colored building that bears their name was designed by followers of Frank Lloyd Wright and opened in 1970. Among its displayed sculptures is *The Chase of the Sea Urchin* by Jewish sculptor Frank Eliscu of Siesta Key, who also designed the Presidential Eagle in the White House Oval Office and football's Heisman Trophy.



**Edwards Theater
(Sarasota Opera House)**



Cape Coral Historical Society

DESOTO COUNTY

ARCADIA

Simon Rosin Arcade
101 West Oak Street 34226

Jewish cattleman Simon Rosin came to Arcadia in 1905 and the next year opened the Boston Store, which occupied the Oak Street frontage. He built this arcade in 1927, allowing the city's post office to be accessed through the arcade entrances. Rosin also served as mayor of Arcadia in 1919 and established a 4,500-acre cattle ranch.

Schlossberg Building (Schlossberg Camp Building)

1-19 West Magnolia Street 34226
M. Schlossberg, known only by his first initial, was a prominent businessman who lived in Arcadia by 1915. He owned Schlossberg's Department Store (a five-and-dime) and built a row of businesses along the south side of West Oak Street between Monroe and Orange Avenues. He built this colorful building in the late 1920s for the Plaza Hotel. The downtown historic district also includes:

Schlossberg-Graystone Building,
23-25 West Magnolia Street;
Schlossberg Building, 41-47 West
Magnolia Street.

LEE COUNTY

FORT MYERS

Fort Myers Historical Museum
2300 Peck Street 33901
(941) 332-5955

Fort Myers was named for Colonel Abraham C. Myers by his commanding officer and future father-in-law, General David E. Twiggs. Myers was a great-grandson of Moses Cohen, who served as the first rabbi in Charleston, South Carolina. A graduate of West Point, Myers was chief quartermaster for Florida troops during the Second Seminole War and was stationed at Fort Brooke, located in what is now downtown Tampa. Myers later served as quartermaster for the Confederacy. Myers and Twiggs' daughter Marion were married in 1853. A wall display at the museum relates their story.

CAPE CORAL

Cape Coral Historical Society
544 Cultural Park Boulevard 33990-
1212 (941) 772-7037

The historical society occupies the pro shop built by Leonard and Jack Rosen for their Cape Coral Golf and Tennis Resort. The Rosens founded Cape Coral in 1957 and developed it as a "drawing-board city." Today Cape Coral ranks behind Jacksonville as the state's second largest city in terms of area. The historical society's collection includes photographs, archives, and artifacts detailing the Cape Coral building phases. It includes a large selection of promotional memorabilia created by the Rosens for their city.

Original Houses and Yacht Club Driftwood Parkway, between Lenox Court and Flamingo Drive 33990

A plaque erected by the Cape Coral Historical Society on the road leading to the Yacht Club directs visitors to Cape Coral's eight original houses. The Rosens gave a Yacht Club membership to everyone who bought a house in Cape Coral. Another marker—a large bronze plaque on a pedestal—is located in front of City Hall (815 Nicholas Parkway). Pictures of Jack and Leonard Rosen hang inside City Hall.

TIMELINE OF SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN FLORIDA JEWISH HISTORY

1565 Conversos may have been members of the Spanish population of St. Augustine. Conversos were new Christians who had been forced to convert by the Inquisition.

1763 Documented Jewish history begins in Florida, in Pensacola, when Spain relinquished Florida to Britain and Jews were allowed to own land and live in Florida.

1821 Moses Elias Levy arrives in Central Florida to start a plantation as a Jewish colony and becomes a founder of Micanopy. Samuel and Louisa Myers arrive in Pensacola where he practices law, helps organize the local militia, and serves on the city council. The next year, Louisa Myers has a daughter, the first documented Jewish birth in the state.

1836 West Point graduate Abraham C. Myers serves as quartermaster during the Seminole Indian Wars. The city of Fort Myers bears his name.

1845 Florida becomes the 27th state in the Union; David Levy Yulee, a signer of the state's first constitution, is elected as a United States Senator.

The Jewish population in Florida is estimated to be 100.

1857 In Jacksonville, a Jewish cemetery is established. That same year, George Dzialynski is the first [documented] Jewish boy born in Florida.

1876 Temple Beth El of Pensacola becomes the first Jewish congregation in Florida.

1879 Henry Brash elected Mayor of Marianna is the first known Florida Jewish mayor of a list now including more than 100 Jewish mayors throughout the state. (See page 42 for List of Jewish Mayors in Florida.)

1890 Jewish population in Florida will reach 2,500 during this decade.

1893 Jews begin to settle in Southeast Florida, following Henry Flagler's new railroad.

1916 Max Lehrman had married Rose Seitlin in Miami in 1913 and settled in Ft. Lauderdale with his family as Broward County's first known Jews. Their four children were the first known born in Dade County and in Broward County and

his store was the earliest Jewish-owned in Ft. Lauderdale.

1933 David Sholtz of Daytona Beach is elected Governor of Florida.

1941 Ellis Zacharias of Jacksonville, Chief of Naval Intelligence, helps break the Japanese code leading to the U.S. victory in the Pacific during World War II.

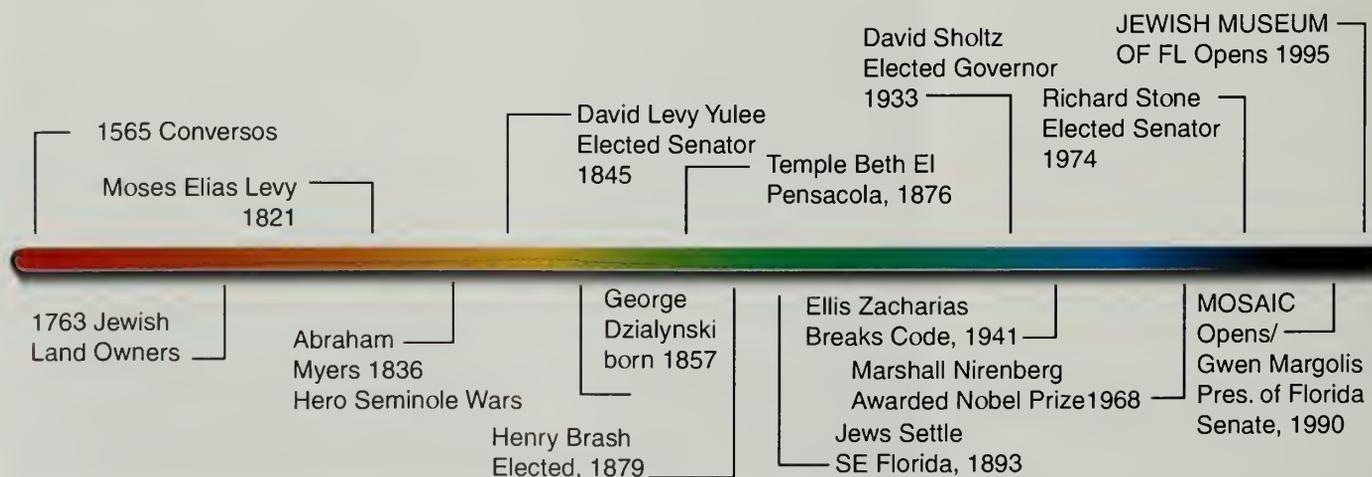
1950 The Jewish population is estimated to be 70,000. In 1959 approximately 10,000 Cuban Jews find freedom in South Florida.

1968 Marshall W. Nirenberg of Orlando is awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology for his part in breaking the genetic code.

1974 Third-generation Floridian, Richard Stone, is elected United States Senator from Florida.

1990 *MOSAIC, Jewish Life in Florida* traveling exhibit opens as the first comprehensive overview of the Florida Jewish experience since 1763. Gwen Margolis is the first woman president of the Florida Senate.

1995 JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA opens. Florida's Jewish population is about 800,000 by 2000.





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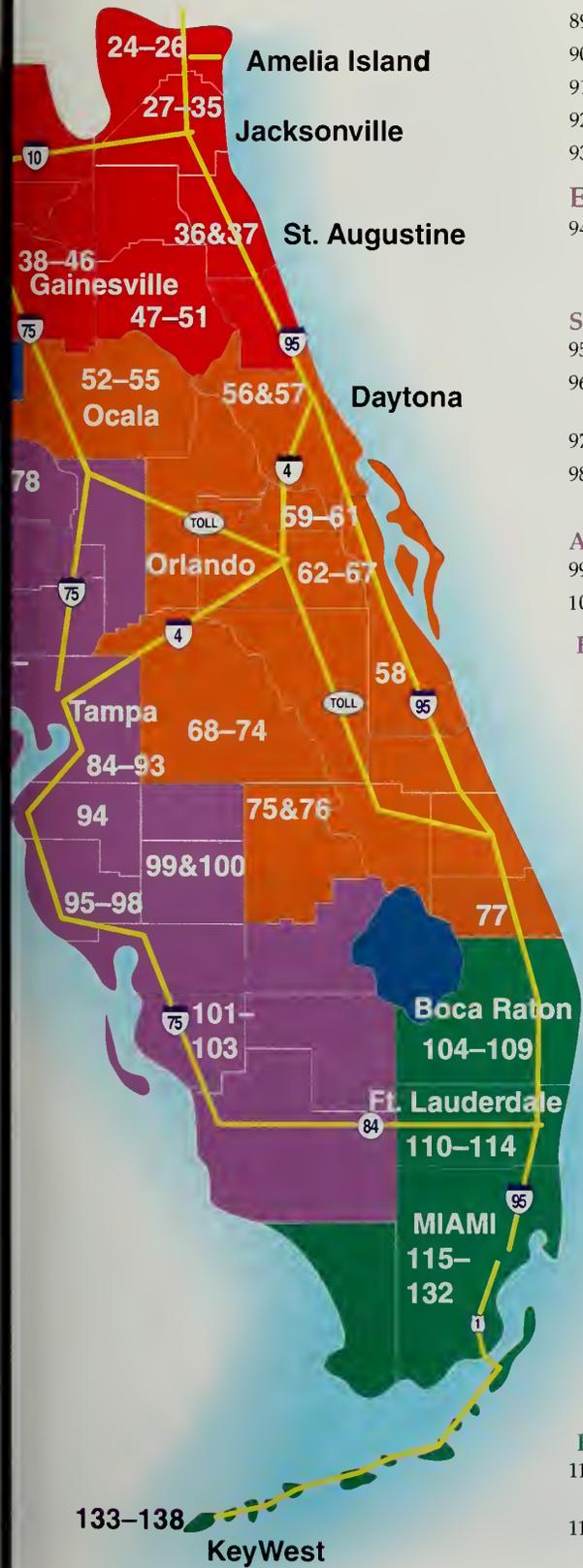
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MAX HUTKIN

Max Hutkin was "Mr. Boca Raton"—so named for his many civic contributions. Hutkin was born in 1895, the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants who settled in St. Louis. In 1919 Hutkin married Russian-born Nettie Brown, also of St. Louis. In 1936 they moved to the small town of Boca Raton. There they rented a building on the Old Dixie Highway for \$5 a month, hung a sign in the window, and opened Hutkin's Food Market. The Hutkins and a few of Nettie's relatives are believed to be the only Jews living in Boca Raton until after World War II. Max Hutkin participated in the civic life of his adopted town with great enthusiasm. He was a volunteer firefighter for 14 years, Red Cross Disaster chairman for 25 years, and the first chair of Boca Raton's Community Relations Board. He also co-founded the Chamber of Commerce, organized the town's first Boy Scout Troop, and founded and served as president of the local Lions Club. In 1967 Hutkin helped organize Temple Beth El, the first Jewish congregation in Boca Raton, and served as an early president. Hutkin became a frequent speaker at ground breakings and dedications. "I stuck my finger into everything that needed it," he said in an interview in 1983 at age 88. "That's how I became Mr. Boca Raton. I made Boca Raton my hobby." Hutkin died in 1987.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY

BELLE GLADE

Temple Beth Shalom
224 Northwest Avenue G 33430
(561) 996-3886

Twenty-three Jewish families living in the "Glades"—an area of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and Clewiston—built this one-room synagogue in 1954.

BOCA RATON

Boca Raton's Jewish population is nearly 50 percent—the highest percentage of any city in Florida. This growth occurred slowly after World War II and represents a phenomenal increase that started with the two Jewish families known to have lived in the city before the war. Harry and

Florence Brown arrived in 1931, followed by his sister and brother-in-law, Nettie and Max Hutkin, in 1936.

Boca Raton Resort & Club
501 East Camino Real 33432-6127
(561) 395-3000

Originally this was the Cloister Inn, an exclusive, restricted resort built in 1926 and designed by Addison Mizner. In the 1940s, hotel magnate J. Myer Schine, who owned other resort hotels such as the Roney Plaza on Miami Beach and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel of Atlantic City, bought the resort. Schine had been a penniless immigrant from Latvia. In Boca Raton, J. Myer and his wife, Hildegard, sponsored art exhibits at the resort. Hildegard became an organizer of the Art Guild, which is now the Boca Raton Museum of Art.





**Molly S. Fraiberg Judaica Collections,
S. E. Wimberly Library, Boca Raton**

Molly S. Fraiberg Judaica Collections, S. E. Wimberly Library, Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road 33431-0992
(561) 297-3787 or (561) 297-3742
This Judaica library is one of the largest in the southeastern United States. A permanent exhibit features Isaac Bashevis Singer's writing desk, chairs, and lamp. In addition, the library has the 1978 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature's walking cane, Panama hat, personal photographs, hundreds of his books and other personal artifacts, some of which come from his Florida residence. During his later years, Singer lived in Surfside where Isaac Bashevis Singer Boulevard (95th Street) was named for him. A new permanent exhibit of miniature scale models by Albert Barry is based on the wooden synagogues of Poland. Appointments are preferred, but limited drop-in hours are available. Call for details.

Temple Beth El (Reform)
333 Southwest 4th Avenue 33432
(561) 391-8900

Temple Beth El, the first Jewish congregation in South Palm Beach County, had ecumenical beginnings. The congregation was founded as the Boca Raton Hebrew Congregation in 1967 through the encouragement of a Roman Catholic nun. Mother de la Croix, president of Marymount College, now Lynn University, invited the dozen founding families

to worship on her campus. According to congregational lore, Catholic nuns at one time outnumbered Jewish worshippers at the services. The congregation's first bar mitzvah was held at the next site—a Moravian church at the corner of Palmetto Park Road and 12th Avenue. In the 1970s, the now-named Temple Beth El built this synagogue and expanded it in 1986. The membership is now 2,000 families, one of the largest Reform congregations in the nation.

WEST PALM BEACH

Temple Israel (Reform)
1901 North Flagler Drive 33407
(561) 833-8421

This was the first Jewish congregation in Palm Beach County. Eight families founded it as Beth Israel in 1923. The next year, the congregation moved into a synagogue at 2020 Broward, where it remained until 1951 when the congregation, now known as Temple Israel, moved to Flagler Drive, its current location. Among the founders of Beth Israel was Joseph Mandel, who served as mayor of West Palm Beach in 1923 and 1924. Another founder was Max Sirkin, a produce farmer who arrived in 1896 and became the first Jewish settler in West Palm Beach. The present sanctuary is tentlike with stained glass windows of various shapes, sizes, and depths set into thick walls. The ark doors are a stylized tree of life with frosted and clear glass, allowing worshippers to glimpse the Torahs even with the doors closed. The ark itself has floor-to-ceiling side windows that bathe it in perpetual light.

Clematis Street Merchants

Now the city's lively main business street, this street was where early Jewish settlers opened retail stores. By the early 1920s, retail stores included Joseph Schupler's hat store, Cy Argintar's Men's Shop and Toby and Selma Myers' luggage business (at 210 Clematis). Another Clematis Street business, Pioneer Linen (329 Clematis), evolved from

THE S.S. ST. LOUIS

On May 13, 1939, four months before Hitler invaded Poland, the luxury liner S.S. *St. Louis* sailed from Hamburg, Germany bound for Cuba with 936 Jewish passengers aboard. All the Jewish passengers believed they had visas to enter Cuba. They had paid the Cuban consulate in Germany inflated fees for worthless visas and landing permits. Two weeks later, when the ship arrived in the port of Havana, disembarkation was denied. For days, fierce but unsuccessful negotiations were held while the ship lingered near Cuba. The ship was forced to sail north, following the Florida coastline. Florida residents and visitors waited in hopeful anticipation. On June 4, the ship passed Miami heading north and then turned south again, where it was met by a much larger ship. It was U.S. Coast Guard Cutter 244 from Fort Lauderdale, sent to thwart the movements of the S.S. *St. Louis*. On June 5, protestors massed along the beaches south of Las Olas Boulevard near the Coast Guard Base. The cutter stood by the S.S. *St. Louis* as it moved slowly down the coast and prevented refugees from jumping off and swimming ashore. The S.S. *St. Louis* then anchored off Miami Beach. On June 7, a mass protest took place in Miami's Bayfront Park. The protestors' voices went unheeded. Later that day, the S.S. *St. Louis*, with a low reserve of food and water, returned to Germany. Of the 936 Jewish passengers, approximately 30 were allowed to enter Belgium, France, Great Britain, and the Netherlands. The remainder returned to Germany. Only one-fourth of the total Jewish passengers, an estimated 240, survived the Holocaust. A few of these survivors reside in Florida.

an early Lake Worth hardware business founded in 1912 by Max Greenberg.

BROWARD COUNTY

COOPER CITY

American Legion Post 312
9081 Southwest 50th Street 33328
(954) 434-0965

Morris Cooper's rags-to-riches story is a metaphor for the immigrant experience in America. This Legion Post was built on land he donated, and a plaque honoring Morris and Clara Cooper is in front. The Russian-born Cooper arrived in the United States in 1908 with one suit and pocket change. He went to work in a shirt factory, saving 50 cents a week from his \$4 salary. Within four years Cooper owned the Imperial Shirt Company, a New Jersey company that grew to nine plants producing 720,000 shirts per week. Cooper began visiting Florida and buying citrus groves. In 1958 Cooper sold the shirt company, retired to Florida, and set about creating his dream city. By the time he died in 1975 at the age of 82, Cooper City was thriving. Cooper was buried

with a Cooper City flag at Mt. Nebo Cemetery in Miami. The city re-named 90th Avenue Morris Cooper Drive in his honor.

FORT LAUDERDALE

B'nai Israel Section, Evergreen Cemetery, 1300 Southeast 10th Avenue 33315 (954) 527-0227
Established in 1926, the Jewish cemetery section is marked by a white archway bearing the words B'nai Israel (Children of Israel). Members of the Fort Lauderdale Hebrew Congregation dedicated it in 1935 and later renamed it Temple Emanu-El. Many of the congregation's founders are buried here. They include Moe Katz, believed to have received the first state-issued real estate license; his brother Mack, whose Mack's Ladies' Shop was reputed to be the first women's clothing store in town; and Mack's wife, Sadye, who helped spearhead building campaigns for Fort Lauderdale's War Memorial Auditorium and Holy Cross Hospital. Also buried here are Abe Markowitz, who resisted pressure to change his Markowitz Plumbing sign to something less Jewish sounding; Louis

and Esther Sandler who owned a wholesale produce business; and the Nankin, Newman, Robbins, and Sterling families, all of whom owned and operated popular clothing and shoe stores downtown from the 1920s and the 1930s.

Sterling's Men and Boys Store (Now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection) 218 Southwest 1st Avenue 33301
Isadore "Pop" A. Sterling ran Fort Lauderdale's first Sterling Store, founded in 1935, in a converted garage on Andrews Avenue. By the early 1940s, he operated Sterling's Men's and Boys Store at this site. Pop became a town legend, widely known for his generosity and civic participation.

HOLLYWOOD

**Morse Arcade
1926 Hollywood Boulevard 33030-4532**

Hollywood's first Jewish services were held in this 1926 arcade, which is one of the city's oldest commercial buildings. The Jewish Community Center of Hollywood, chartered in 1942, met in a rear storefront. Today the Conservative congregation is known as Temple Sinai of Hollywood and is located at 1440 North 46th Avenue.

POMPANO BEACH

Pompano Beach is the home of one of the oldest Jewish communities in Broward County. The first congregation, the Pompano Beach Jewish Circle, today Temple Sholom, began in 1945.

**Moe's Pompano Pharmacy
45 Northeast 1st Street 33060**
Abraham and Lena Hirshman came to Pompano Beach in the late 1920s and opened the Bon Ton Department Store, the first Jewish-owned business in town, at 31 Northeast 1st Street. Abe's younger brother, Morris, his wife Goldie and their daughter joined them in 1934. Morris established his first pharmacy at this



B'nai Israel Section, Evergreen Cemetery, Fort Lauderdale



Temple Israel of Greater Miami

location. He later built a store at 60 Northeast 1st Street, which is still known as the Pompano Pharmacy.

DADE COUNTY

MIAMI

Beth David Congregation (Conservative)

2625 Southwest 3rd Avenue 33129
(305) 854-3911

Greater Miami's first Jewish congregation was founded in 1912 as B'nai Zion, named for its founder, Morris Zion. Max Lehrman arrived in Florida in 1905 and married Rose Seitlin in 1913. Their wedding, the first recorded Jewish marriage in Greater Miami, took place at the home of Morris Zion. Their first baby, Nell, born in 1914, is believed to be the first Jewish girl born in Miami. In 1916 they moved to Fort Lauderdale, the year Rose gave birth to Sarah, who is believed to be the first Jewish baby born in Fort Lauderdale. In 1916 the congregation was renamed Beth David to honor David Afremow, a department store owner who donated \$5,000 to the congregation. In 1949 Beth David moved to its present location. Inside, the Beck Museum of Judaica features

some 3,000-year-old antiquities, a 17th-century Persian Torah, and two bas-reliefs by Kenneth Treister, designer of the Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach.

City of Miami Cemetery 1800 Northeast 2nd Avenue 33132 (305) 358-9572

This public cemetery dates from 1897. The walled-in Jewish section (Block 41) was founded in 1915. The last Jewish burial was held in 1964 but most of the graves date from the 1920s and 1930s. Temple Israel, located across the street, and the Dade Heritage Trust work together to preserve the cemetery.

Cromer-Cassel Department Store (Metromall) 1 Northeast 1st Street 33132-2433 (305) 373-5004

Daniel Cromer, a Jewish immigrant from Scotland, came to Miami in 1913 and purchased a store from his brother-in-law David Afremow. Cromer and his partner, Irwin M. Cassel, sold merchandise ranging from straight pins to motor boats. In 1926, they built a new store full of the most modern of conveniences. Cromer-Cassel's \$5.25 million department store opened to much fanfare on May 28, 1926. The festivities began at 6 p.m. when Herbert



ISIDOR COHEN

Isidor Cohen was one of the earliest settlers in Miami, the first permanent Jewish settler, and a signatory to the city's charter. Born in Russia in 1870, Cohen emigrated to New York with his family in 1883. Eight years later he moved to Savannah, Georgia, where he worked as a store clerk and became a U.S. citizen. In 1896 he moved to Miami where he opened a dry goods store.

Cohen battled a freeze in 1895, a fire in 1896 that wiped out his entire stock, and a siege of yellow fever in 1899. By Cohen's account, only three Jews resided in Miami in 1900, including himself and Jacob and Ida Schneidman. The other early arrivals had fled to safer places. In 1905 Cohen married the widowed Ida Schneidman. He organized the Merchants Association of Miami and was its president from 1902 to 1906. He also served as president of the Dade County Fair Association in 1908 and president of the Miami Board of Trade in 1912. In 1921, Cohen was elected to the city's 15-member board that wrote the Miami City Charter. Cohen was one of the organizers of B'nai Zion Congregation (later called Beth David) founded in 1912 as the first Jewish congregation in Miami. Isidor Cohen died in 1951.



MIAMI BEACH (ART DECO) ARCHITECTURAL DISTRICT

Miami Beach's famed Architectural District contains the largest collection of 1930s Art Deco and Art Moderne buildings in the nation. The square-mile district is bounded by 5th Street to 23rd Street, Lenox Avenue to Ocean Drive. A Jewish woman, Barbara Baer Capitman (1920-1990), launched the campaign that established the district and saved the architectural gems of South Beach. Through her efforts, South Beach became the first 20th-century district in the National Register of Historic Places. Tenth Street has been renamed Barbara Baer Capitman Street to honor her memory.

Another Jew, designer Leonard Horowitz (1954-1989), transformed approximately 150 buildings in the district with his "Deco Dazzle," applying bright colors to buildings that were originally white with limited color trim. The Beacon Hotel on Ocean Drive between 7th and 8th Streets is an example of Horowitz's creativity. Eleventh Street has been renamed Leonard Horowitz Place in his honor.

Henry Hohauser (1895-1963) was a leading architect of the Art Deco style, and examples of his work can be seen throughout the district. The Cardozo Hotel (1300 Ocean Drive) was designed by Hohauser in 1939 and is considered one of the best examples of the Streamline influence in Art Deco design. The hotel was named for a Jewish Justice of the Supreme Court, Benjamin Cardozo.

Other buildings designed by Hohauser on Ocean Drive include the Park Central Hotel north of 6th Street; the Colony Hotel, between 7th and 8th Streets; and the Edison at 10th Street. Hohauser was also the architect of Congregation Beth Jacob's second synagogue that now houses the Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA, at 301 Washington Avenue.

Hoover, then U.S. Secretary of Commerce, pressed a button in Washington, D.C. that, via Western Union, unlocked the store's main entrance. The nine-story building featured escalators between the first and third floors, perhaps a first for Miami. Twenty-foot ceilings and Circassian walnut paneling graced the main floor. Upper floors were detailed in gray oak and mahogany. The store was severely damaged by the 1926 hurricane and was further crippled by the Depression. Unable to recover, Cromer-Cassel closed in the early 1930s. Today the building houses the Metromall.

Mt. Nebo Cemetery
5505 Northwest 3rd Street 33126
(305) 261-7612

In use since the 1940s, this cemetery is the oldest stand-alone Jewish cemetery in Dade County. Among its thousands of gravesites are those for Isidor Cohen, recognized as the first permanent Jewish resident of Miami; Morris Cooper, founder of Cooper City; and Meyer Lansky, a known member of organized crime.

Temple Israel of Greater Miami (Reform)
137 Northeast 19th Street 33132
(305) 573-5900

Temple Israel, the first Reform and second-oldest Jewish congregation in Miami, was founded in 1922 and moved here in 1928. The synagogue complex is highly regarded for its architecture. The Nathan and Sophie Gumenick Chapel, dedicated in 1969, was designed by congregant Kenneth Treister. Temple Israel also has gardens that are adorned with plants mentioned in the Bible.

WTVJ/Capitol Theater
316 North Miami Avenue 33128-1800
(305) 379-6666

The Capitol Theater opened in 1926 as the first of the Wometco Theater chain, a company founded by Mitchell Wolfson, Sr., and his brother-in-law, Sidney Meyer. In 1949, the Capitol was converted into the studios of WTVJ, Florida's first

TV station. Wolfson, son of Key West pioneers, was the first Jewish mayor of Miami Beach.

MIAMI BEACH

Blackstone Hotel

800-808 Washington Avenue 33139-0800

Nathan Stone built the Blackstone Hotel in 1930. It provided a place for Jews to stay at a time when "Restricted Clientele" signs were prevalent elsewhere along the Beach. In 1954, under the management of Nathan's son Alfred, the hotel broke the color barrier by hosting a black Baptist convention. Richard Stone, Alfred's son, served as Florida's Secretary of State (1972-1974) and U.S. Senator (1974-1980).

Congregation Beth Jacob (Orthodox)

311 Washington Avenue, 33139 (305) 672-6150

Beth Jacob was the first Jewish congregation founded on Miami Beach (1927) and is its oldest synagogue (1929). It was located well south of 5th Street, the northernmost boundary of where Jews were allowed to settle. In 1936, the congregation built a larger synagogue at 301 Washington Avenue and used the first building as a social hall. However, changing population patterns on the Beach and declining congregation membership forced Beth Jacob to retrench and, in 1986, return to the original building. In 1994, this larger building was leased to the Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA, which restored the building.

Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami

2400 Pine Tree Drive 33140 (305) 532-6421

The first Jewish day school in the Southeast began with six students in 1946; now there are over 500. This site was designed by Morris Lapidus whose commissions include Temple Judea (Coral Gables), Temple Beth El (St. Petersburg), the Lincoln Road

Mall, and the Fountainbleau and Eden Roc Hotels (Miami Beach).

Holocaust Memorial

1933-45 Meridian Avenue 33139 (305) 538-1663

Designed by Kenneth Treister and dedicated in February 1990, the bronze hand, reaching 50 feet skyward and bearing life-size men, women, and children, is visible from blocks away. Visitors can closely view 130 life-size figures, cast in bronze, in the garden and park.

Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant

227 Biscayne Street 33132 (305) 673-0365

This is considered to be Miami Beach's oldest Jewish-owned business. It is also one of the most famous. Joe and Jennie Weiss arrived in 1913 and ran a snack bar and bath house. In 1917, they moved to the south tip of the Beach and opened their own

restaurant on the site where it remains today.

Henri Levy Park and Fountain 71st and Bay Drive

This recently restored fountain was named in memory of French-born Henri Levy, developer of the Normandy Isle and Surfside communities in the 1920s. His real estate ventures had to be north of any properties once owned by Carl Fisher, whose restrictive covenants against Jewish ownership remained in effect on Miami Beach until after World War II.

Mt. Sinai Medical Center

4300 Alton Road 33140-2800

(305) 865-4422

The imposing Mount Sinai Medical Center is the largest employer in



Holocaust Memorial, Miami Beach

THE WOLFSON FAMILY OF MIAMI

One of the most prominent Jewish families in Florida is the Wolfson family of Miami and Key West. Joseph Wolfson of Russia arrived in Key West in 1884 and was soon joined by his brother, Louis, who wed Rosa Gruner and fathered a son, Mitchell, in 1900. The family relocated to Miami where Mitchell joined his father in business. In 1924, Mitchell and his brother-in-law, Sidney Meyer, formed the Wolfson-Meyer Theater Company, soon to be known as Wometco Theaters, Inc. Wometco would expand from a single theater to a chain of theaters and, in 1949, became the first television station in Florida, WTVJ/Channel 4/Miami. Wolfson served as the first Jewish mayor of Miami Beach in 1939. During World War II, Mitchell earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Colonel Wolfson and his wife, Frances, of Pensacola, restored the Audubon House in Key West in 1960, sparking the historic preservation movement in Key West. Frances Wolfson was an artist of considerable talent and received worldwide recognition for her Chinese-style paintings. Through her efforts, a scholarship fund was established to aid art students. Her daughter, Frances Louise, for whom the building for the School of Communication at the University of Miami is named, has continued her efforts. The Colonel and Frances had two sons, Louis Wolfson, II, and Mitchell Wolfson, Jr., and a daughter, Frances Louise Waxenberg.

Louis served in the Florida Legislature from 1963 to 1972. Mitchell, Jr. amassed a collection of American decorative art, numbering over 70,000 items, which served as the impetus for the creation of the Wolfsonian Museum in Miami Beach.

Miami Beach. The hospital was founded after World War II for Jewish doctors who were denied staff privileges in other Dade County facilities. The current campus is located at the hospital's original site, which, ironically, had once been a restricted hotel where Jewish guests were not welcomed.

Temple Beth Shmuel Cuban Hebrew Congregation of Miami (Conservative)

1700 Michigan Avenue 33139
(305) 534-5143

Approximately 10,000 Jews left Cuba during the anti-Castro exodus, most settling in the Miami-Dade area. It was these Cuban Jewish exiles who in 1961 founded this congregation, one of two that were designed by the Cuban-born Jewish brothers—Oscar and Isaac Sklar. Caves near the Western Wall in Jerusalem inspired Oscar Sklar's ultramodern design for the sanctuary. The Temple Beth Shmuel Cuban Hebrew congregation is Ashkenazic and Conservative; the other congregation, the Temple Moses Sephardic Congregation of Florida, is Orthodox and Sephardic. Services are held in both English and Hebrew, but congregants are often addressed in Yiddish and Spanish, their languages of choice.

Temple Moses Sephardic Congregation of Florida (Orthodox)

1200 Normandy Drive 33141
(305) 861-6308

Sermons are delivered in Spanish at this Cuban-Sephardic congregation. Dedicated in 1980, the synagogue is a copy of a synagogue in Havana that was abandoned by Jews fleeing Castro. Outside, at the corner of Main and Vichy, a plaque commemorates the 850th birthday of Jewish philosopher and Torah expert, Moses Maimonides in 1985. To the south is a diminutive street called Maimonides Plaza. The library in this Sephardic congregation includes books in Spanish and Hebrew.

Temple Emanu-El of Greater Miami (Conservative)

1701 Washington Avenue 33139
(305) 538-2503

Founded on Miami Beach in 1938 as Congregation Jacob Joseph, then as the Miami Beach Community Center, the name was changed to Temple Emanu-El in 1954. The building dates from 1949. The dome is designed in the Byzantine style and departs from the Art Deco style commonly found in Miami Beach during this period.

Rose Weiss Park

Northeast corner of Second Street and Washington Avenue 33139

The park was dedicated in 1975 to the memory of the woman who was called the Mother of Miami Beach. From the time Rose ("Rosie") Weiss moved to Miami Beach in 1919 to her death in 1972, she tended to the welfare of every group on the Beach, especially the children. She saw to it that no schoolchild went without lunch, and, in the aftermath of the 1926 hurricane, organized milk deliveries to families with young children. Rosie attended every city council meeting for 38 years, designed Miami Beach's official flag, fought prejudice, and sold \$1 million



The Wolfsonian, Miami Beach

dollars worth of bonds during World War II, more than anyone else in the state. She once claimed to have founded "every organization we have on the Beach." That included Beth Jacob, the first Jewish congregation, which was planned at meetings in her home. She also convinced the city to set aside the land to create the park that they later renamed for her.

Wolfie's Deli

**2038 Collins Avenue 33139-1914
(305) 538-6626**

Wolfie Cohen came to Florida in 1932. In 1947, he opened the original Wolfie's at this site, the first of seven restaurants on the beaches. The deli has been the site of numerous political rallies and kick-off campaigns through the years, becoming a tradition with Miami-Dade County politicians. The deli has had continuous Jewish owners: Wolfie Cohen, 1947-1953; Edwin Lassman, 1953-1984; and Joseph and David Nevel, 1984-present. It still serves its original chicken soup recipe that made it famous. Wolfie Cohen served on the Miami Beach City Council from 1959 to 1963.

MUSEUMS OF MIAMI BEACH

Bass Museum

**2121 Park Avenue 33139-1756
(305) 673-7530**

Jews have had a great impact on the cultural life of Miami Beach. In 1963 John and Johanna Bass donated their art collection to the city of Miami Beach. The city-owned Bass Museum is renowned for its paintings by Peter Paul Rubens and Albrecht Dürer, for its 16th-century Flemish tapestries, and for its modern lithographs by Fernand Léger and Henri Toulouse-Lautrec. The collection also includes images by Florida photographers Andy Sweet, Jewel Stern, and Marcia Walkenstein, whose represented work includes scenes of Jewish life on the Beach. John Bass, a Viennese Jew, came to New York in 1914 with dreams of becoming a pianist. Instead he went to work as an errand boy on Wall Street. In time he became



Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA: Home of MOSAIC

president of a Wall Street company and was a leader in the sugar industry. He never wavered in his love for music. He was a composer and a member of chamber music groups. He also was a writer, painter, photographer, etcher and an art collector. His wife, Joanna Bass, was a poet, pianist, and decorator.

The Wolfsonian, Florida International University

**1001 Washington Avenue 33139
(305) 531-1001**

Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. founded the Wolfsonian museum in 1986 to showcase his own collection of more than 70,000 objects from the late 19th to the mid-20th centuries with emphasis on furniture and the decorative and propaganda arts. The collection also included paintings, rare books, prints, and ephemera. In 1997, Wolfson donated the collection to the State of Florida and the Wolfsonian became part of Florida International University. Valued at \$80 million, this is considered to be the largest gift ever made to a state university in Florida and the fifth largest to a public university nationwide. Included are items of Jewish interest, including prewar Jewish pop-up greeting cards printed in Germany and postcards printed in

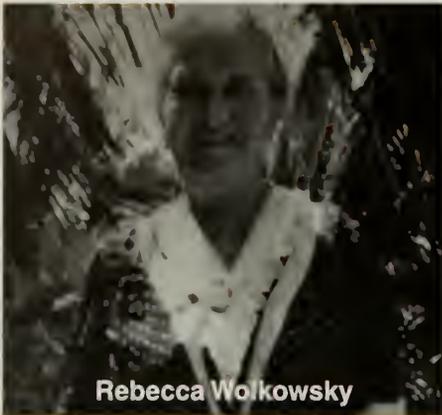
Vienna. Also featured are imprints by Jewish members of the Bauhaus, and woodcuts and etchings by American Jewish artists. The book collection includes Hebrew poetry from Argentina; a Hebrew typography catalog published in Berlin in 1924; a children's book in Yiddish; and a 1920s book published in Palestine with poetry and silhouettes of early *kibbutzniks*.

Sanford L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA: Home of MOSAIC

**301 Washington Avenue 33139
(305) 672-5044**

www.jewishmuseum.com

The only museum dedicated to Florida's Jewish experience from 1763 to the present opened in 1995. The Museum is housed in Ira Giller's award-winning restoration of an Art Deco synagogue designed by Henry Hohauser in 1936. Especially noteworthy are its 80 stained glass windows, a marble bimah, Art Deco chandeliers and sconces, and a Moorish copper dome. The Museum features a Collections and Research Center, the core exhibit *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida*, changing exhibits and a Jewish history timeline. It also offers guided tours, films, a store and public programs. Researchers will find an extensive



Rebecca Wolkowsky

THE WOLKOWSKY FAMILY

Abraham Wolkowsky (1862-1932) arrived in Key West from Rumania in 1885. He began as a peddler but soon opened a clothing store, a change he may have made as a result of the city council's "anti-peddler" tax. Wolkowsky married Rebecca Lewinsky, a member of another early Key West Jewish family. Their sons were Isaac and Frank. The house at 1309 Whitehead Street, built in 1890, is an early home of Abraham and Rebecca Wolkowsky. Their home at 407 South Street, where the family lived in the 1910s, is at the southern end of Whitehead Street. It is only one of 200 Key West buildings which David Wolkowsky has restored since 1962, making him a respected leader in Key West's preservation effort. David Wolkowsky's Captain Tony's Saloon at 428 Greene Street was known formerly as Sloppy Joe's, becoming famous as an Ernest Hemingway hangout. In 1968, Wolkowsky built the Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa overlooking the Gulf near Duval Street. Herman Wolkowsky, a nephew of Abraham, owned the Wolkowsky Store at the southeast corner of Southern and Duval Streets. Born in Rumania in 1890, Herman came to Key West in 1913, married, and opened a furniture store. At the age of 25, he served as president of Key West's B'nai Zion congregation.

collection of photos, documents, artifacts and audiotaped histories. The Museum is an outgrowth of the MOSAIC project, a grassroots effort initiated in 1984 to find and exhibit material evidence of the Jewish experience in Florida. This statewide project involved the participation of thousands of Floridians. The traveling MOSAIC exhibit was shown in 11 Florida cities, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia from 1990 through 1994.

MONROE COUNTY

KEY WEST

Key West, once a port of entry for immigrants to the United States, was one of the first places Jews settled in Florida before 1900. A large number of these Jewish settlers were from Rumania. Among the earliest Jewish arrivals were Joseph Wolfson, who stayed in Key West after being shipwrecked in 1884; Abraham Wolkowsky, who came in 1885; and David L. Ripa who arrived in 1888.

Jewish Merchants on Duval Street

Many of the first Jewish settlers in Key West began as peddlers. In 1891, the Key West City Council passed an anti-immigrant, anti-peddler annual tax of \$1,000 per cart. As a result, many of the Jewish peddlers set aside their carts and opened stores, many on Duval Street. Some of their stores and stories include:

Appel's Department Store 928-930 Duval Street, 33040

Rubin and Lily Appel came to Key West from Russia in 1904. He was related to the Appelrouths but changed his name to Appel. This store remained in business until the 1990s.

Appelrouth Lane 400 Block of Duval Street 33040

The street was formerly known as Smith Lane and was renamed for a Jewish shoe merchant who came to Key West around 1900. His store was at 604 Duval Street.

Audubon House and Gardens 205 Whitehead Street 33040-6832 (305) 294-2116

Louis Wolfson arrived in Key West in 1902, and opened his Store of Fashion on Duval Street. In 1958 Mitchell Wolfson, Sr., one-time mayor of Miami Beach and native of Key West, bought a dilapidated house belonging to an old sea captain and converted it into a public showcase for John James Audubon's life and work. The Mitchell Wolfson Family Foundation still owns this house.

B'nai Zion Congregation 528 Simonton Street 33040-6832 (305) 296-5739

In 1907, B'nai Zion bought this wood-frame home-office from Dr. John B. H. Maloney and converted it into a synagogue. Founded in 1887, B'nai Zion was an amalgamation of several small congregations. Until it bought this building, the congregation met above Louis Fine's store. The congregation remained on Simonton Street until 1969 when the current synagogue was built at 750 United Street.

City Cemetery, Jewish Section Windsor Lane 33040-6832 (305) 296-5739

Founded as a city cemetery in 1865, the Jewish section has graves from the 1880s. Among the early Jewish pioneers buried here are Berman and Rose Weintraub, who operated a successful grocery business in 1900 and assisted fellow Rumanian settlers. Also buried here are Abraham and Annie Einhorn, initially helped by the Weintraubs, who later operated the Big Door Grocery. Also at this site is the grave of Joe Pearlman, one of the pioneers of Duval Street, who was president of the congregation for 25 years. Others are Jacob Markowitz, Isadore Appelrouth, Rubin and Lillie Appel, Theodore and Elka Holtsberg, and brothers Jake and David Aronovitz and their wives, both named Celia. All had settled in Key West by the early 1900s.



JEWES IN PUBLIC OFFICE

FEDERAL - LEGISLATIVE

David Levy Yulee, Territorial Delegate, 1841-45; Senator, 1845-51, 1855-61; Richard Stone, Senator, 1974-80; William Lehman, Representative, District 13, 1972-92; Larry Smith, Representative, District 16, 1983-92; Peter Deutsch, Representative, District 20, 1992-present; Robert Wexler, Representative, District 19, 1996-present.

STATE EXECUTIVE

David Sholtz, Governor, 1933-37; George Firestone, Secretary of State, 1979-1987; Richard Stone, Secretary of State, 1972-74; Robert Shevin, Attorney General, 1971-79; Gerald Lewis, Comptroller, 1975-95 (longest service of an elected officer in Florida).

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

Arthur J. England, Jr., 1975-81, served as Chief Justice; Raymond Ehrlich, 1981-91; served as Chief Justice; Gerald Kogan, 1987-98; served as Chief Justice; Barbara Pariente, 1997-present.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Mike Abrams, House, 101st District, 1982-92; 105th District, 1992-94; Alan Becker, House, 103rd District, 1972-78; Elaine Bloom, House, 100th District, 1974-78; 104th District, 1986-92; 106th District, 1992-2000; Speaker Pro-Tempore, 1992-97; Helen Gordon Davis, House, 70th District, 1974-82; 64th District, 1982-88; Senate, 23rd District, 1988-92; Peter Deutsch, House, 90th District, 1983-92; Murray H. Dubbin, House, District 96, 1963, 65, 66; House, 95th District, 1967-72; House, 115th District, 1972-74; Steven

W. Effman, House, 98th District, 1996-present; George Firestone, House, Dade District, 1966; 110th District, 1967; 92nd District, 1968-72; Senate, 36th District, 1972-78; Bill Fleece, House, Pinellas, 1966; 53rd District 1967-72; Howard Forman, Senate, 32nd District, 1988-present; Marcus Frank, House, Marion County District, 1939, 1949; Lois Frankel, House, 85th District, 1986-present; Michael Friedman, House, 102nd District, 1980-82; House, 103rd District, 1982-92; Steven Geller, House, 98th District, 1988-1992; House, 101st District, 1992-97; Ron Glickman, House, 66th District, 1986-92; House, 57th District, 1992-94; Elaine Gordon, House, 98th and 102nd Districts, 1972-94; Speaker Pro Tempore 1984-92; Jack D. Gordon, Senate, 35th District, 1972-92; President Pro Tempore, 1983-84; Kenneth Gottlieb, House, 1998-present; Ronald Greenstein, House, 95th District, 1998-present; Susan Guber, House, 117th District, 1986-92; Tom Gustafson, House, 88th District, 1976-82; 94th District, 1982-90; Al Gutman, House, 105th District, 1984-92; Senate, 34th District, 1992-98; Marshall Harris, House, Dade, 1966; 108th District, 1967-72; 112th District, 1972-74; Sally A. Heyman, House, 105th District, 1994-present; Richard Hodes, House, 68th District, 1966-82; Speaker Pro Tempore, 1979-80, House Majority Leader 1981-82; Suzanne Jacobs, House, 88th District, 1992-present; A.O. Kanner, House, Martin District, 1927-36; Senate, 33rd District, 1936-41; Ron Klein, House, 89th District, 1992-95; Senate, 28th District, 1996-present; Barry Kutun, House, 99th District, 1972-82; 104th District, 1982-85; Curt Levine, House,

89th District, 1998-present; Gerald Lewis, House, Dade, District 96, 1966; 1967-70; Senate, 43rd District, 1970-72; Assistant State Attorney, Dade County, 1973; Assistant County Attorney, Dade County, 1974; Fred Lippman, House, 94th District, 1978-82; House, 97th District, 1982-92; House, 100th District, 1992-97; Gwen Margolis, House, 102nd District, 1974-80; Senate, 37th District, 1980-92; President 1990-92; Ken Myers, House, Dade District, 1966-67; House, 94th District, 1967-68; Senate, 45th District, 1968-72; 37th District, 1972-80; Norman Ostrau, House, 96th District, 1986-92; Steve Press, House, 86th District, 1982-92; Barry Richard, House, 112th District, 1974-78; Stacy J. Ritter, House, 96th District, 1996-present; Irma Rochlin, House, 98th District, 1984-88; Burt L. Saunders, House, 76th District, 1994-97; Robert Shevin, House, Dade District, 1964-66; Senate, 43rd District, 1966-70; David Sholtz, House, Volusia, 1917-19; Barry Silver, House, 89th District, 1996-97; Ron Silver, House, 103rd District, 1978-82; House, 100th District, 1982-92; Senate, 48th District, 1992-2002; House Majority Leader and Majority Whip; Art Simon, House, 116th District, 1982-94; Larry Smith, House, 96th District, 1978-82; Eleanor Sobel, House, House, 100th District, 1998-present; Richard Stone, Senate, 48th District, 1967-70; Jack Tobin, House, 88th District, 1982-92; House, 95th District, 1982-97; Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, House, 97th District, 1992-present; Peter Weinstein, Senate, 29th District, 1982-92; Senate, 33rd District, 1992-96; Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader; Sonny Weinstein, House, St. Johns, 1955,

1957; Eleanor Weinstock, House, 79th District, 1978-82; House, 83rd District, 1982-86; Senate, 26th District, 1986-92; Sherman Winn, House, 105th District, 1970-72; Senate, 34th District, 1972-82; President Pro-Tempore 1976-78; Louis Wolfson II, Dade District, 1963-65; House, 93rd District, 1967; 111th District, 1968-72; Leo Wotitzky, House, Charlotte, 1939, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49; Nathan Zelmanovitz, House, Okeechobee, 1953, 55, 57.

CITIES AND TOWNS - MAYORS

Norman Abramowitz, Tamarac, 1988-92, 1994-96; Maynard Abrams, Hollywood, 1966-69; Abe Aronovitz, Miami, 1953-55; Joseph Gardner, Bay Harbor Islands, 1979-82; Max L. Bear, Pensacola, 1937; Joe Berkheim, Gainesville*, Gene Berkowitz, Tallahassee, 1968; Anne Bernstein, Palm Shores, 1990-96; Jack Block, South Miami, 1968-84; Henry Brash, Marianna, 1879-82; Shepard Broad, Bay Harbor Islands, 1947-72; Irving Buchalter, Sunset Beach, 1947-50; Norman Ciment, Miami Beach, 1981-83; David Cohen, Sarasota, 1960, 1964-66; Judy Cuenca, Golden Beach, 1995-present; Michael Davis, DeLand, 1890s; Jay Dermer, Miami Beach, 1967-71; Robert Drohlich, Longboat Key, 1995-96; Morris A. Dzialynski, Jacksonville, 1881-83; Steven Effman, Sunrise, 1993-96; Samuel Feinberg, Dunnellon, 1917; Robert Farber, Longboat Key, 1994-95; Alice Reiter-Feld, Lauderhill*; Sidney Fischer, Cocoa Beach, 1956-60; Herman Fishbein, St. Petersburg, 1969; Michael Fishel, Ocala, 1900-2; Sandy Freedman, Tampa, 1987-95; William Freidman, Dade City, 1932-33; Nathan Friedland, Melbourne, 1965-68; Malcolm H. Fromberg, Miami Beach, 1983-85; Edgar "Buddy" Galvin, Hallandale, 1971-72; Seymour Gelber, Miami Beach, 1991-97; Marilyn Gerber, Coconut Creek*; Mara Giuliani, Hollywood, 1986- present; Joseph Glickstein, Sr., Neptune Beach, 1930s; Herman Glogowski, Tampa, 1886-93; Herman

W. Goldner, St. Peterburg, 1961-67, 1971-73; Stanley G. Goldsmith, Bay Harbor, 1982-84, 1991-92; Adolph Greenhut, Pensacola, 1913-16; Irving Greenhut, Pensacola, 1965; Ron Greenstein, Coconut Creek*; Evelyn Greer, Pine Crest*; Dr. Louis Haas, Bay Harbor Islands, 1975-76; Dr. Leonard Haber, Miami Beach, 1977-79; C. J. Heinberg, Gulf Breeze, 1961-62, 1968-70; Andrew R. Hirschl, Bal Harbour, 1999-present; Fred Holtsberg, Ft. Pierce, 1936-37; Royal Flagg Jonas, North Bay Village, 1952-54; David Kaminsky, Lauderhill, 1984-88; Irving Kanarek, Stuart, 1954, 1956; Neisen O. Kasdin, Miami Beach, 1997-present; Hymen Lake, North Bay Village, 1954-56; Hal Lenobel, Longboat Key, 1998-present; Marcie Liberman, Miami Beach, 1947-49; Ilene Lieberman, Lauderhill, 1990; Bernard Lilienthal, Palatka Heights, 1880s; Eli M. Lurie, Surfside, 1972-74; Joseph Mendel, West Palm Beach, 1923-24; Judge Murray Meyerson, Miami Beach, 1979-81; Louis Nathan, Miami Shores, 1930; Theodore R. Nelson, Bay Harbor, 1976-78; Kenneth Oka, Miami Beach, 1957-59, 1961-63; Lou Ann Palmer, Sarasota, 1984-85, 1989-90; Dan Pearl, Sunrise, 1989-93; Walter S. Pesetsky, North Miami Beach, 1975-77; Irving Peskoe, Homestead, 1981-86; Harold Raben, Belle Glade, 1949-50; Morris Rabinowitz, Graceville, 1961; Charles Rheinbauer, Ocala, 1906; Melvin Richard, Miami Beach, 1963-65; Carol Roberts, West Palm Beach, 1985-86; Margot M. Roberts, South Palm Beach, 1990s; Leo Rose, Jr., Surfside, 1954-56; Harold Rosen, Miami Beach, 1971, 1974-75; Harry Rosen, Miramar, 1975-79; Arthur J. Rosenberg, Hallandale, 1981-83, 1987-89; Simon Rosin, Arcadia, 1919; Seymour Roth, Indian Harbour Shores, 1985-86; Bernard Rubin, Fort Pierce, 1957-58; Philip Rubin, Crystal River, 1932; Harvey Ruvin, North Bay Village, 1968-72; Joe Schreiber, Tamarac, 1997-present; Harold Shapiro, Miami Beach, 1953-55; Martin Shapiro, Bay

Harbor Islands, 1973-74; Morris Silverman, Florida City, 1932-38; Arthur Snyder, North Miami Beach, 1950s or 1960s; Gilbert B. Stein, Hallandale, 1989-90; Estelle Stern, Bal Harbour, 1989-90; Charles Sussman, Hillsboro Beach*; Stanley G. Tate, Bay Harbor Islands, 1973-74; Edward M. Tavlin, Bay Harbor Islands, 1993-95; Herb Tobin, Golden Beach, 1982-90; Harold Turk, Miami Beach, 1949-51; Sam A. Wahnish, Tallahassee, 1939-41; Samuel B. Waterman, Hallandale, 1985-87; Jerome Weiner, Dade City, 1966; Dr. Milton Weinkle, Hallandale, 1972; Sherman Winn, North Miami, 1965-69; Mitchell Wolfson, Miami Beach, 1943; A. Hart Wurzburg, Longboat Key, 1989-90; Max Wyner, Kelsey City, 1920-22.

* Date(s) of term unknown.



State Capitol Chapel
 400 South Monroe Street 32399-6536
 (850) 487-1902

A series of wall plaques in the chapel relate the story of Florida's religious history. Included in the series are two plaques that tell the story of Florida's early Jewish settlements, with particular emphasis on Pensacola, Jacksonville, and St. Augustine.

CREDITS

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GLOSSARY, HOLIDAYS, AND OBSERVANCES

Ark – centerpiece of Jewish worship, a cabinet that holds one or more Torah scrolls.

Ashkenazic – referring to Jews and descendants of Jews who originated in Central and Eastern Europe and to the rituals and folk customs associated with them.

Bar or Bat Mitzvah – “son or daughter of the commandment” coming-of-age ritual, traditionally at the age of 13 for boys and 12 or 13 for girls.

Bishola – Sephardic naming ceremony for girls at least one month old.

Brit Milah (or Bris) – “covenant of circumcision” observed on the eighth day of a male baby’s life.

Chanukah – Festival of Freedom that commemorates the victory of Judah the Maccabee over the Syrian King Antiochus (24 *Kislev*) (November or December).

Conservative Judaism – branch of Judaism, founded in the early 20th century, that is less traditional than Orthodox Judaism but more traditional than Reform Judaism.

Chevra Kadisha – a benevolent organization that observes the laws and customs of Jewish burial.

Havdalah – ceremony marking the end of *Shabbat*.

Israel’s Independence Day – (5 *Iyar*) (March or April).

Kaddish – an ancient Jewish prayer that is recited at various times and for various purposes, including by mourners and by those observing the anniversary of a close relative’s death.

Kasher – the ritual process of making food, food implements, and serving pieces kosher.

Kibbutz – a collective farm in Israel.

Kibbutzniks – someone who lives on a *kibbutz*.

Landsmen – someone who comes from the same town in the old country.

Minyan – a group composed of at least ten worshippers, the requisite number of men for orthodox services, or ten men and women for nonorthodox services.

Orthodox Judaism – branch of Judaism that observes the religious practices and traditions of Judaism in the strictest sense.

Passover (*Pesach*) – Festival of Freedom and Redemption that commemorates the Exodus of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt nearly 3,300 years ago (15 *Nisan*) (March or April).

Purim – Festival of Freedom that commemorates the rescue of Persian Jewry through the intervention of Queen Esther in the 5th century B.C.E. (14 *Adar*) (February or March).

Reform Judaism – branch of Judaism, founded in the 19th century that has the most modernized religious practices.

Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year (1 *Tishrei*) (September or October).

Sephardic – referring to Jews and descendants of Jews who originated in Spain and Portugal and to the rituals and folk customs associated with them.

Shabbat – the Sabbath, the holiest time in Jewish life, begins with the lighting of candles at sunset Friday evening and concludes with the *Havdalah* ceremony, Saturday evening at sunset.

Shavuot – celebrates the receiving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai (6 *Sivan*) (May or June).

Shochet – someone certified by rabbis to butcher meat according to the kosher laws.

Shul – Yiddish word for synagogue.

Sukkah – a booth decorated with fruits and vegetables, with a roof open to the stars, attended during the harvest festival of *Sukkot*; a reminder of the temporary shelters built by the ancient Hebrews during their wanderings in the wilderness.

Sukkot – harvest holiday (15 *Tishrei*) (September or October).

Simchat Torah – “celebration of the Torah” (22 or 23 *Tishrei*) (September or October).

Synagogue – a building or place used by Jews for worship but also for study and assembly.

Tisha B’Av – observance of the destruction of the Temple (9 *Av*) (July or August).

Torah – refers to the first five books of the Bible, the books of Moses, and to the scroll on which is written those five books; the Torah scroll being the holiest object in Jewish worship.

Tu B’Shevat – New Year for Trees (15 *Shevat*) (January or February).

Tzedakah – the Jewish obligation to help the less fortunate.

Yiddish – German-based language of the Ashkenazic Jews, written with Hebrew letters, including Slavic and other European influences.

YMHA – Young Men’s Hebrew Association, usually the precursor to the Jewish Community Center.

Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Day (27 *Nisan*) (April).

Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement. After *Shabbat*, *Yom Kippur* is the holiest day in the Jewish year, observed by prayer and total fasting (10 *Tishrei*) (September or October).

Watch with Hebrew numerals
owned by George Dzialynski
of Jacksonville, first
documented Jewish male
born in Florida in 1857; from
the Collection of the Sanford
L. Ziff JEWISH MUSEUM OF
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